



Summary

Main Features

FEATURE ARTICLE - Children living without an employed parent
 FEATURE ARTICLE - Labour Force Survey Regions
 FEATURE ARTICLE - Spotlight on Industrial Disputes
 FEATURE ARTICLE - Labour Underutilisation

NOTES

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

The Labour Market Summary table now contains all five annual labour underutilisation rates. Table 4.1 has also been revised, with the addition of the underemployment rate.

DATA CONTAINED IN THIS ISSUE

The statistics shown are the latest available at 24 June 2004. Data sources for the tables in this publication are listed in Appendix 1.

ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

The spreadsheets and data cubes referenced in this publication are available on the ABS web site. To find them, go to the home page and follow the links to **Data cubes** and **Time Series Spreadsheets**.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Tracey Chester on Canberra (02) 6252 7636.

For email enquiries, please contact Client Services on client.services@abs.gov.au.

LABOUR MARKET SUMMARY

KEY MEASURES

| Measure | | Series type | Period | Current figure | % change from | |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | | | | Previous quarter(a) | Previous year(b) |
| Employed | | | | | | |
| Persons | '000 | Trend | May 2004 | 9,669.5 | 0.7 | 2.4 |
| Full-time | '000 | Trend | May 2004 | 6,913.5 | 0.6 | 2.8 |
| Part-time | '000 | Trend | May 2004 | 2,756.0 | 0.9 | 1.4 |
| Part-time employment as a proportion of total employment | % | Trend | May 2004 | 28.5 | (c)0.1 | (c)-0.3 |
| Unemployed | | | | | | |
| Persons | '000 | Trend | May 2004 | 569.3 | -2.0 | -8.8 |
| Looking for full-time work | '000 | Trend | May 2004 | 420.7 | -0.8 | -9.9 |
| Looking for part-time work | '000 | Trend | May 2004 | 148.6 | -5.0 | -5.6 |
| Unemployment rate | | | | | | |
| Persons | % | Trend | May 2004 | 5.6 | (c)-0.1 | (c)-0.6 |
| Long-term unemployment | | | | | | |
| Persons | '000 | Trend | May 2004 | 117.8 | -2.7 | -11.9 |
| As a proportion of total unemployment | % | Trend | May 2004 | 20.7 | (c)-0.2 | (c)-0.7 |
| Annual labour underutilisation rates(d) | | | | | | |
| Long-term unemployment rate | % | Original | Sep 2003 | 1.3 | na | (c)-0.1 |
| Unemployment rate | % | Original | Sep 2003 | 5.9 | na | (c)-0.5 |
| Underemployment rate | % | Original | Sep 2003 | 5.6 | na | (c)-0.2 |
| Labour force underutilisation rate | % | Original | Sep 2003 | 11.5 | na | (c)-0.6 |
| Extended labour force underutilisation rate | % | Original | Sep 2003 | 12.5 | na | (c)-0.7 |
| Children living in families where no parent is employed(e) | % | Original | Jun 2003 | 17.2 | na | (c)-0.7 |
| Labour force participation rate | | | | | | |
| Persons | % | Trend | May 2004 | 63.7 | (c)0.1 | (c)0.1 |
| Actual hours worked | | | | | | |
| Aggregate weekly hours | mill. hours | Original | May 2004 | 334.0 | -0.7 | 2.0 |
| Average weekly hours - Persons | hours | Original | May 2004 | 34.6 | -1.8 | 0.0 |
| Average weekly hours - Full-time | hours | Original | May 2004 | 42.0 | -0.8 | -0.2 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|--------------|--------|---------|--------|
| Average weekly hours - Part-time | hours | Original | May 2004 | 16.5 | -2.3 | 0.7 |
| Part-time workers | | | | | | |
| Proportion who preferred to work more hours | % | Original | May 2004 | 25.7 | (c)-0.8 | (c)0.1 |
| Wage cost index | | | | | | |
| Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses | index no. | Trend | Mar qtr 2004 | 123.7 | 0.9 | 3.7 |
| Average weekly earnings | | | | | | |
| Full-time adult ordinary time earnings | \$ | Trend | Feb 2004 | 948.00 | 1.0 | 4.9 |
| All employees total earnings | \$ | Trend | Feb 2004 | 752.30 | 1.2 | 5.3 |
| Compensation of employees | | | | | | |
| Household income account | \$m | Trend | Mar qtr 2004 | 95,411 | 1.4 | 5.4 |
| Average earnings (National Accounts basis - nominal) per week | \$ | Trend | Mar qtr 2004 | 896 | 0.9 | 3.9 |
| Industrial disputes | | | | | | |
| Working days lost | '000 | Original | Mar qtr 2004 | 76.8 | -49.3 | 15.9 |
| Working days lost per 1,000 employees | number | Original | Mar qtr 2004 | 9.3 | -49.7 | 14.7 |
| Job vacancies | | | | | | |
| Australia | '000 | Trend | Feb 2004 | 105.5 | 0.8 | 0.0 |

na not available

(a) Same period previous quarter (monthly data is presented for the middle month of each quarter).

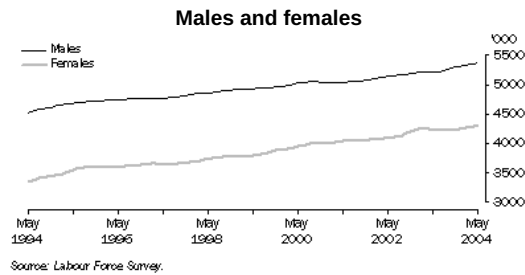
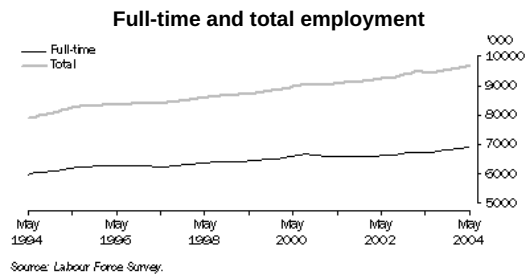
(b) Same period previous year.

(c) Change is in percentage points.

(d) See table 4.1 or the Glossary for further explanation of labour underutilisation rates.

(e) As a proportion of all children aged under 15 years. See the Explanatory Notes for information on family data.

EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

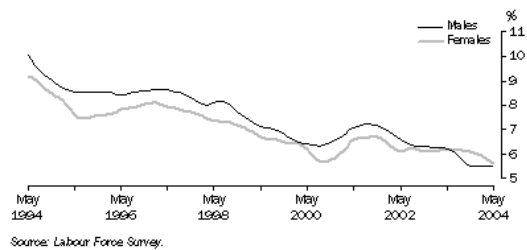


PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

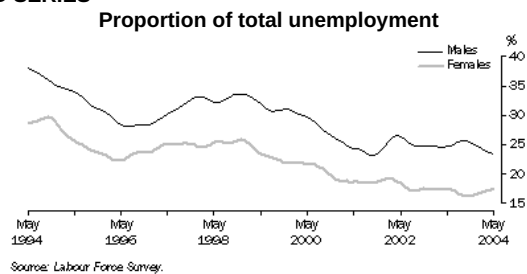


UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: TREND SERIES

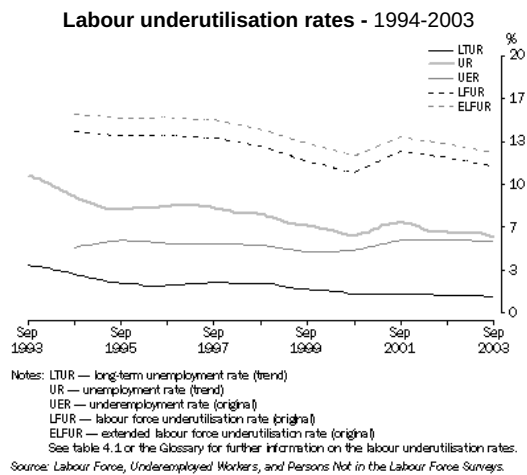
Males and females



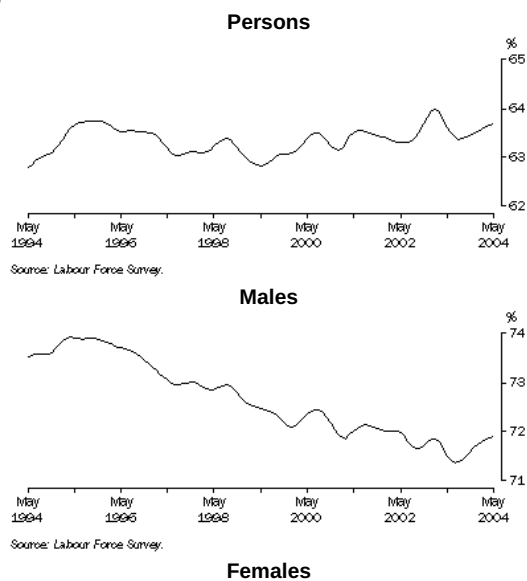
LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES



UNDERUTILISED LABOUR



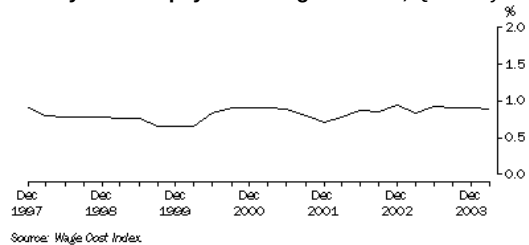
PARTICIPATION RATE: TREND SERIES





WAGE COST INDEX: TREND SERIES

Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, Quarterly change

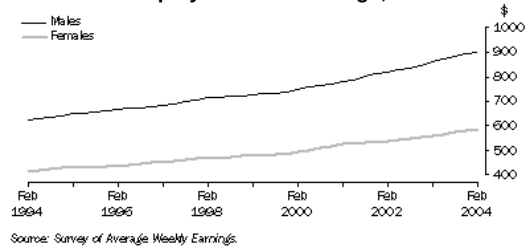


AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: TREND SERIES

Full-time adult ordinary time earnings, Quarterly change

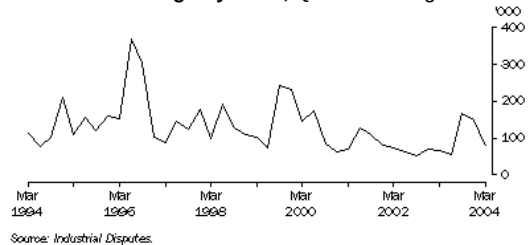


All employees total earnings, Level



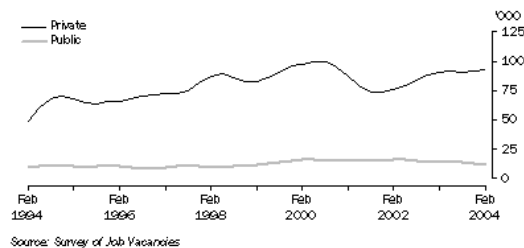
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: ORIGINAL SERIES

Working days lost, Quarter ending



JOB VACANCIES: TREND SERIES

Job Vacancies, By sector



LABOUR STATISTICS NEWS

LABOUR THEME PAGE

The ABS Labour Theme Page, available on the ABS web site, provides a guide to the range of ABS statistics on the labour market, as well as links to the latest data released. To find the Theme Page, go to the ABS home page and click on **Themes** and then **Labour**.

ABS EMAIL NOTIFICATION SERVICE

By subscribing to this free service, you will be kept informed via email of the latest releases of ABS products. To subscribe, follow the link from the ABS home page, provide your email address, and select your topics of interest.

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPUTER ASSISTED INTERVIEWING

In October 2003, the ABS began the progressive implementation of computer assisted interviewing (CAI) into the LFS. For the period October 2003 to January 2004, CAI was used on a random 10% sub-sample of interviews. The proportion of survey interviews conducted using CAI has since increased to 40% across Australia in April and May 2004, and 70% in June 2004.

Implementation of CAI is not expected to affect published estimates in any meaningful way. Nonetheless, the ABS is monitoring the situation carefully and has conducted a range of analyses on each month's data. These analyses have confirmed that any effect that the change in interview method may have had on survey responses to date has not materially affected labour force estimates for any month.

NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE WEBSITE

The National Statistical Service (NSS) is an ABS-led initiative which supports the whole of government approach to the management of statistical information. As part of this initiative, a new web site <<http://www.nss.gov.au>> has been released to assist agencies in applying sound statistical and data management principles and practices. The web site provides a core set of resources, including:

- NSS Handbook and Key Principles (providing an overview of the statistical process for collection managers, designers, or users of statistical products)
- directories of statistical sources
- published Information Development Plans
- statistical training offered by government agencies
- papers on statistical best practice
- concepts, classifications and data dictionaries.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY

The results of the second national social survey of Indigenous people were released on 23 June 2004 in **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002** (cat. no. 4714.0). This survey was designed to enable analysis of the inter-relationship of social circumstances and outcomes that may be experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Work is one of the broad topic groups that has been covered, and the survey enabled separate identification of work through the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES STATISTICS

A number of changes to the release of industrial disputes statistics were introduced with the release of **Industrial Disputes, Australia (Electronic Publication)** (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001) for the March quarter 2004 on 17 June 2004, including a move from a monthly to a quarterly release. These changes follow a review of the Industrial Disputes collection, and consultation with users. More information is available in the short article on Industrial Disputes statistics included in the spotlight section of this publication, and through the link on the Labour Theme Page.

MAJOR LABOUR COSTS

The 2002-03 Major Labour Costs survey provides statistics on the main costs incurred by private and public sector organisations as a consequence of employing labour. The survey collected data on the following labour costs for the financial year 2002-03: employee earnings (net of reimbursements from government); superannuation; payroll tax; workers compensation; and fringe benefits tax.

Survey results were released on 11 June 2004 in **Labour Costs, Australia** (cat. no. 6348.0.55.001), an electronic publication available free of charge on the ABS web site. An article on the survey results is included in the recent release section of this publication.

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS ON LABOUR TOPICS

The Monthly Population Survey comprises the Labour Force Survey and a number of supplementary surveys, which provide detailed information on a range of topics. Results from surveys on labour-related topics recently released include **Working Arrangements, Australia** (cat. no. 6342.0), and **Characteristics of Small Business, Australia** (cat. no. 8127.0). These releases are outlined in the recent release section of this publication.

Recent and upcoming statistical releases

| Release date/title of publication | Reference period | Catalogue number |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| June 2004 | | |
| Industrial Disputes, Australia (Electronic Publication) | March quarter 2004 | 6321.0.55.001 |
| Labour Costs, Australia | 2002-03 | 6348.0.55.001 |
| Labour Force, Australia | May 2004 | 6202.0 |
| Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery | May 2004 | 6291.0.55.001 |
| National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey | 2002 | 4714.0 |
| Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia | March quarter 2004 | 6248.0.55.001 |
| Working Arrangements, Australia | November 2003 | 6342.0 |
| July 2004 | | |
| Australian Labour Market Statistics | July 2004 | 6105.0 |
| Family Characteristics | June 2003 | 4442.0 |
| Job Vacancies, Australia | May 2004 | 6354.0 |
| Labour Force, Australia | June 2004 | 6202.0 |
| Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery | June 2004 | 6291.0.55.001 |
| Occasional Paper: Perspectives on Women's Employment in Regional Australia, 2001 Census | 2001 | 1380.0.55.001 |
| August 2004 | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings, Australia | May 2003 | 6302.0 |
| Labour Force, Australia | July 2004 | 6202.0 |
| Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery | July 2004 | 6291.0.55.001 |
| Labour Mobility | February 2004 | 6209.0 |
| Wage Cost Index, Australia | June quarter 2004 | 6345.0 |
| September 2004 | | |
| Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia | 2002-03 | 6523.0 |
| Industrial Disputes, Australia | June quarter 2004 | 6321.0.55.001 |
| Information Paper: Persons in Own Business, Experimental Estimates for Small Areas | 1996-97 to 2000-01 | 6225.0 |
| Job Vacancies, Australia | August 2004 | 6354.0 |
| Labour Force, Australia | August 2004 | 6202.0 |
| Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery | August 2004 | 6291.0.55.001 |
| Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia | June quarter 2004 | 6248.0.55.001 |
| October 2004 | | |
| Australian Labour Market Statistics | October 2004 | 6105.0 |
| Labour Force, Australia | September 2004 | 6202.0 |
| Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery | September 2004 | 6291.0.55.001 |

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

Replaces: Labour Force, Australia 6203.0

This publication is the flagship release for all ABS labour statistics. It draws together data from a range of sources, mostly ABS household and business surveys, to provide an overall picture of the labour market. The key purpose of this publication is to raise awareness of the data available, so that users will be able to use it more effectively.

It contains tables for core data items, presenting the most recent data available at a particular date (rather than relating to a particular reference period). It is also able to be used to announce the release of supplementary surveys and infrequent surveys. Note that, in addition to a brief article in this publication, these would also have separate releases, which would not be delayed by the release in this publication.

The publication is also used to release annual data on Indigenous labour force status, and annual supplementary measures of labour underutilisation. It includes a range of feature articles, both analytical and technical, which will assist users in understanding and interpreting the data and will also promote the range of data available from the ABS labour statistics program. It will be used to announce any changes to labour series or releases.

The publication contains brief explanatory notes, outlining each data source, but referring to the relevant releases, and to Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods 6102.0, for more detail.

Labour Force Survey Regions (Feature Article)

Feature Article - Labour Force Survey Regions

This article was published in the July 2004 issue of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0).

To find maps of the Labour Force Survey regions, press the Details Tab from the top of this Page.

INTRODUCTION

Estimates of the labour force status of people are available on a monthly basis for 77 Labour Force Survey (LFS) regions. These series go back to October 1982. LFS regions were established to meet user interest in small area data from the LFS.

This article discusses how LFS regions are formed and provides information on the quality of estimates for these regions, using the Inner Sydney Statistical Region as an example.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION

Labour Force Survey regions are formed from elements of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). Therefore, to understand LFS regions, it is first necessary to look at the ASGC.

Background

The ABS introduced the ASGC in 1984. The classification provides well defined structures of hierarchical geography. The ABS uses the ASGC as the geographical framework for the collection and dissemination of statistics about Australia's population and economy. The ASGC provides structures covering the whole of geographic Australia and also specific parts of interest.

ASGC structure

Statistical local areas (SLAs) are building blocks for the ASGC. The SLA is the smallest spatial unit of the ASGC except in a census year, when the census collection district is the smallest unit. (Census collection districts aggregate to SLAs at census time.)

SLAs have a close relationship with local government areas (LGAs). An LGA can be composed of one or many SLAs. LGAs in total do not cover the whole of geographic Australia, but SLAs do add to Australia.

The ASGC has seven interrelated classification structures, each of which serves a specific purpose. The ASGC statistical region structure generally provides the geographical dimension of LFS outputs. (Information on the other ASGC structures is available in **Australian Standard Geographical Classification** (cat. no. 1216.0).) The ASGC statistical region structure is composed of SLAs that aggregate to statistical region sectors (SRSs) and in turn to statistical regions (SRs), major statistical regions (MSRs), then to states/territories and the whole of geographic Australia.

The LGA structure is the main driver of change to the boundaries of geographical areas of the ASGC. State and territory governments gazette changes to LGAs and these changes affect other structures in the classification through the link between LGAs and SLAs. These changes are the main reason the ABS publishes an updated version of the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)** (cat. no. 1216.0) every year.

The ASGC is reviewed periodically. The most recent reviews were held in 1996 and 2001. Such reviews can result in changes to definitions, concepts and boundaries.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY REGIONS

LFS regions are contiguous regions composed of geographical areas defined in the ASGC statistical region structure current at the time of a Census of Population and Housing (for example 1996, 2001). There are currently 77 of these LFS regions across Australia, which include major statistical regions, statistical regions, statistical region sectors and one statistical division, and are based on the 2001 edition of the ASGC.

Maps showing these regions are available on the Labour theme page of the ABS web site <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>. A list of LFS regions is available in **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design** (cat. no. 6269.0).

Because the size of an LFS region is determined largely by the sample size needed to produce accurate estimates, the smaller states/territories have few LFS regions. In the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, the only LFS region is the entire territory.

How LFS regions are formed

LFS regions were originally established after extensive consultation with major users of labour force data. Estimates for these LFS regions were first released in 1985. Factors in the design of the LFS regions included: the sample sizes required to yield reliable estimates; the need for consistency with the ASGC; and the need for comparability with other statistical collections.

LFS regions are determined, in part, by the expected sample size for each region. If the regions are too small, then the accuracy of estimates will not be acceptable: relative standard errors on estimates will be very large, and the estimates will not be reliable or useful. The regions represent a compromise between user interest in small area data and the design limits of the sample.

Why LFS regions change

The boundaries of LFS regions are revised as part of the five-yearly review of the LFS sample design. This review uses census data, and

takes into account the most recent changes to the ASGC. Since the LFS regions are aggregations of SLAs, changes at the SLA level, including those flowing from LGA changes, affect the boundaries of the regions.

The regular revisions of the LFS sample aim to ensure that regions have sufficiently reliable estimates, and that the continuity of LFS region time series is maintained. The latest revisions were based on 2001 census data. The new sample design from the review was gradually implemented between November 2002 and June 2003. Details of the changes made are outlined in the ABS publication **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design** (cat. no. 6269.0).

The ABS conducted a major review of LFS regions during 1996. The boundaries for many regions were changed to maintain consistency with the ASGC, and three new regions were created to meet user needs. More information on the changes resulting from the review is available in the ABS publication **Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics, September 1997** (cat. no. 6262.0). The ABS plans to conduct a minor review of LFS regions in 2006.

How data for LFS regions are used

State government agencies and others use labour market data for LFS regions to monitor the level of regional activity, assess regional development issues, and to inform the development of employment policies and programs. Some agencies are interested in the broad trends for regions as part of assessing the state's economic performance.

Limitations of LFS regions

The LFS regions have some limitations. Users generally want data for the smallest areas possible, so the main criticism is that the LFS regions are too big. The need to have regions with a large enough sample to produce reasonably accurate estimates has to be balanced with the desire of data users to have estimates for small specific areas.

While the ABS reviews the LFS regions as part of each five-yearly sample redesign, it is not possible to backcast estimates based on the new regions. As a result, changes tend to be kept to a minimum to preserve time series.

QUALITY OF LABOUR FORCE SURVEY REGION DATA

The LFS is designed primarily to provide reliable estimates of the key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory. The survey is not designed to provide accurate regional estimates. Since estimates for regions are based on much smaller samples they are subject to higher levels of sampling error.

Relative standard errors can be calculated for estimates from the LFS to give an indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling. (For more information on standard errors in the LFS, see **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Standard Errors** (cat. no. 6298.0).) In LFS output, only estimates with relative standard errors of 25% or less are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Tables showing the level at which LFS regions have a relative standard error of 25% are available on request.

Following each Census of Population and Housing, the ABS selects a new sample for the LFS, to ensure that the sample continues to accurately represent the distribution of the Australian population. Estimates for LFS regions may be more volatile at the time of sample re-selection because the new sample selected to represent each region may have different characteristics to the old sample. The most recent sample re-selection was implemented from November 2002 to June 2003. The way the new LFS sample is implemented means that regions in more remote areas are more subject to disturbances than those in less remote areas.

Regional benchmarking

LFS estimates of people employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are calculated to add up to independent estimates (or benchmarks) of the usually resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. These population benchmarks are based on Census of Population and Housing data, adjusted for differences in scope and under-enumeration in the census. The benchmarks are produced monthly, based on projections of population estimates. The benchmarks are reviewed after each census (every five years), when revised population estimates are produced.

Before the February 2004 survey, population benchmarks in the LFS were classified by state/territory of usual residence, capital city/rest of state, age and sex. In addition to these benchmarks, from February 2004 the LFS also uses population benchmarks for LFS region by sex. LFS estimates at the region level were revised back to January 1999 with the release of February 2004 data.

The use of regional population benchmarks improves the quality of estimates for LFS regions, particularly estimates of employment, without compromising the quality of estimates at national, state and territory levels. However, the estimates for LFS regions are still based on small samples. Further improvement in the quality of regional estimates from the LFS would need a substantial increase in sample size (and hence in the cost of the survey and in respondent load).

Volatility of estimates for LFS regions

Labour force series for LFS regions are considerably more volatile than the corresponding state series. The volatility tends to be greatest for regions with the smallest populations, since these generally have smaller sample sizes in the LFS. In April 2004, the civilian population of LFS regions varied from about 86,000 (for the Mersey Lyell Statistical Region Sector) to about 500,000 for the largest LFS region (the Inner Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region). It would be difficult to estimate the seasonal factors for many of the LFS regions due to the volatility of the data, so seasonally adjusted data are not available for LFS regions. The ABS does not currently produce trend data for LFS regions.

The level of volatility means that little weight should be given to short-term movements. However, the LFS estimates for regions can be used

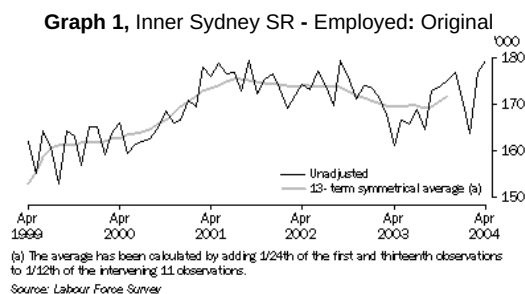
to give an indication of longer-term trends. There are some simple methods that can be used to reduce the volatility, however the methods do have some disadvantages. The advantages and disadvantages of these methods are discussed in detail in **A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends** (cat. no. 1349.0).

One method is to compare an estimate for a period with the estimate for the corresponding period of the previous year, using original estimates. This performs a crude seasonal adjustment, because the comparison of like months reduces the impact of seasonal effects, although it will not allow for evolving seasonality. This measure will still reflect the variability of the estimates, and calculating year apart growth will rarely detect the timing of turning points accurately.

An alternative is to use a 13-term symmetrical moving average. This is quite easy to calculate in a spreadsheet. The moving average smoothes the series, but it also reduces major peaks and troughs. Another disadvantage is that this method does not provide a result for the final six observations in a time series (as shown in graphs 1 and 2, below). Appropriate asymmetric moving averages could be used to calculate smoothed estimates for these observations.

The Inner Sydney Statistical Region is a mid-sized (in terms of population, rather than geographical area) LFS region in New South Wales. It has been chosen to illustrate some of the issues when using labour force estimates for LFS regions.

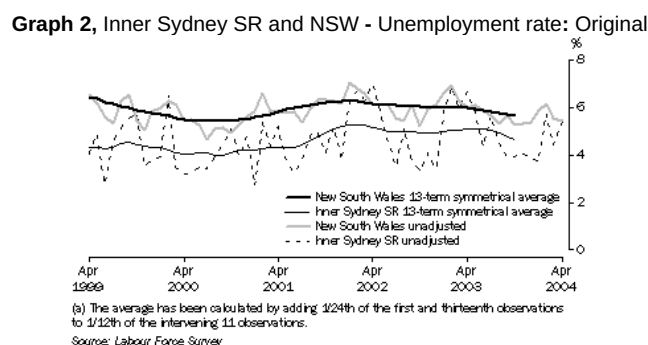
Graph 1 compares the estimates of employment for the Inner Sydney Statistical Region (SR) with a 13-term symmetrical average of that series. In order to minimise phase shift (where the turning points in the averaged series are moved away from the turning points in the input series), the value of each average is placed on the central observation (i.e. the seventh observation of the 13-term span). The average has been calculated by adding 1/24th of the first and thirteenth observations to 1/12th of the intervening 11 observations (i.e. the observations have differing weights). This is a crude trend procedure. Ideally, it should be applied to seasonally adjusted data, but these are not available for LFS regions. As a result, the trends in graphs 1 and 2 may not reflect the true underlying direction of the series.



The number of employed people in the Inner Sydney SR (and other LFS regions) is much greater than the number of unemployed people. Within the results of a sample survey, the larger an estimate is, the smaller the relative standard error. Therefore, the relative standard error is much lower for estimates of employed people than it is for unemployed people.

The relative standard error for monthly estimates of employed people in the Inner Sydney SR varied between 4% and 5% over the period April 1999 to April 2004. During the same period, the relative standard error for estimates of unemployed people in the Inner Sydney SR varied from 14% (on the largest estimate of 13,100 unemployed people, in April 2002) to 23% (on the smallest estimate of 4,700 unemployed people, in June 1999).

Between April 1999 and April 2004, the 13-term symmetrical average estimates for the unemployment rate were lower for the Inner Sydney SR than for New South Wales as a whole (graph 2).



The estimates for the Inner Sydney SR unemployment rate vary considerably from month to month. Between April 1999 and April 2004 the largest monthly change in the estimated unemployment rate for the Inner Sydney SR was between January 2001 and February 2001, when the estimated unemployment rate doubled, rising 2.7 percentage points, from 2.7% to 5.4%. In contrast, the change for New South Wales for this period was an increase of 0.7 percentage points, from 5.9% in January 2001 to 6.6% in February 2001.

SUMMARY

The LFS is designed primarily to provide robust national, state and territory estimates of the civilian labour force. LFS estimates are

produced for 77 regions. These estimates can vary considerably from month to month. The smaller the region, the smaller the estimates and the greater the influence of very small sample size. Caution is needed when interpreting estimates for regions. The focus should be on trends rather than month to month movements.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A number of datacubes containing information for LFS regions are available in **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Electronic Delivery** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001).

For further information on estimates for LFS regions, please contact the Assistant Director, Labour Force Estimates, on Canberra 02 6252 6565.

For email enquiries, please contact Client Services on client.services@abs.gov.au.

Spotlight on Industrial Disputes (Feature Article)

Feature Article - Spotlight on Industrial Disputes

This article was published in the July 2004 issue of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0).

INTRODUCTION

This article presents industrial disputes statistics available in the publication **Industrial Disputes, Australia** (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001).

BACKGROUND

In ABS statistics, an industrial dispute is a state of disagreement, over a particular issue or group of issues between an employer and its employees, that results in employees ceasing work. Industrial disputes comprise strikes, which are a withdrawal from work by a group of employees; and lockouts, which are a refusal by an employer or group of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work.

The Industrial Disputes collection includes only disputes where ten or more working days are lost. Statistics are compiled on the number of industrial disputes, working days lost and employees directly or indirectly involved in industrial disputes. Information is also available about the Cause of Dispute and Reason Work Resumed. The data are used in analysing and monitoring industrial disputation in Australia.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES STATISTICS

The number of working days lost per year, and the number of employees involved, have demonstrated a noticeably downward trend over the last two decades (as shown in graph 1), although there have been short-term increases in some periods.

Graph 1, Industrial disputes, Working days lost - number of employees



Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001).

Table 1 shows that 439,400 working days were lost in 2003, an increase of 70% over 2002. While the number of working days lost increased, the number of industrial disputes declined in 2003 - reflecting an increase in the relative size of disputes in 2003, in terms of the length of the dispute or the number of employees involved. The average number of working days lost per dispute in 2003 was 684, more than double that in 2002 (338).

Table 1, Industrial disputes

| | | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|-------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Working days lost | '000 | 526.3 | 650.8 | 469.1 | 393.1 | 259.0 | 439.4 |
| Disputes | no. | 520 | 731 | 700 | 675 | 767 | 643 |
| Employees involved | '000 | 348.4 | 461.2 | 325.4 | 225.7 | 159.7 | 275.6 |
| Working days lost per dispute | no. | 1,014 | 890 | 672 | 582 | 338 | 684 |

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001), spreadsheet table 1.

INDUSTRY

The number of working days lost per thousand employees has fluctuated over the last five years, varying from a high of 87 in 1999 to 32 in 2002 (see Table 2). In 2003, there were 53 working days lost per thousand employees. Of the industries shown, Coal mining had the highest number of working days lost per thousand employees in each year between 1998 and 2003, although the figure for 2003 (356) was considerably less than the number in 1998 (2,732). Other industries with a relatively high number of working days lost per thousand employees in 2003 were: Mining other than coal (323), Construction (249) and Metal product; machinery and equipment manufacturing (202).

Table 2, Working days lost per 1,000 employees(a)

| Industry | | 1998 '000 | 1999 '000 | 2000 '000 | 2001 '000 | 2002 '000 | 2003 '000 |
|---|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Mining | Coal | 2,723 | 1,445 | 1,933 | 956 | 357 | 356 |
| | Other | 23 | 35 | 60 | 33 | 20 | 323 |
| Manufacturing | Metal products; Machinery and equipment | 71 | 282 | 170 | 258 | 88 | 202 |
| | Other | 106 | 120 | 121 | 148 | 83 | 59 |
| Construction | | 524 | 381 | 234 | 275 | 220 | 249 |
| Transport and storage; Communication services | | 114 | 42 | 52 | 27 | 37 | 37 |
| Education; Health and community services | | 57 | 165 | 79 | 8 | 3 | 85 |
| Other industries(b) | | 7 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| All industries | | 72 | 87 | 61 | 50 | 32 | 53 |

(a) Classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification.

(b) Includes: Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Electricity, gas and water supply; Wholesale trade; Retail trade; Accommodation, cafes and restaurants; Finance and insurance; Property and business services; Government administration and defence; Cultural and recreational services; and Personal and other services.

Source: Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001).

CHANGES TO DISSEMINATION OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES STATISTICS

The December 2003 issue of **Industrial Disputes, Australia** (cat. no. 6321.0), which was released on 19 March 2004, was the final monthly release in the form of a printed publication. A number of changes to the release of statistics on industrial disputes were introduced with the release of **Industrial Disputes, Australia (Electronic Publication)** (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001) for the March quarter 2004 on 17 June 2004. These changes included:

- presenting statistics on industrial disputes for quarterly reference periods (rather than monthly)
- releasing an electronic-only publication
- introducing new classifications for Cause of Dispute (which identifies whether disputes occurred during a process of enterprise bargaining), and Reason Work Resumed (formerly called Method of Settlement), and
- changing the format of electronic time series spreadsheets from Lotus 1-2-3 WKS to Microsoft Excel.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about statistics on industrial disputes, contact the Manager, Industrial Disputes on Perth 08 9360 5159.

For email enquiries, please contact Client Services on client.services@abs.gov.au.

Children Living Without an Employed Parent (Feature Article)

Feature Article - Children Living Without an Employed Parent

This article was published in the July 2004 issue of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0).

INTRODUCTION

Children living without an employed parent, or children in jobless households, are seen by many analysts as being at risk of socioeconomic disadvantage. Children who do not live with an employed parent may be at higher risk of experiencing financial hardship in the short to medium term. These children may not have a role model of employment to follow, and so the joblessness of the parent(s) may mean that such children are more likely to have outcomes such as welfare dependency in the long term¹. However, there may be positive effects for children living without an employed parent, for example, if the reason the parent is without a job is to care for children or to undertake study to try to improve the economic wellbeing of the household later on.

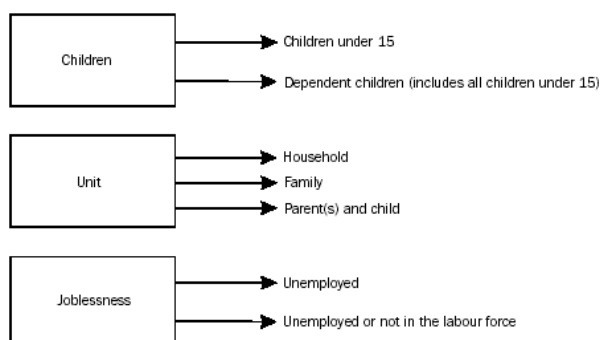
This article explores some of the concepts and issues surrounding this topic, and examines some of the different sources of data available on children living without an employed parent. Initially the article discusses possible measures and provides analysis of the results that these different measures produce. The article then uses the measure preferred by the ABS - children living without an employed parent - as the basis for analysis of data from the 2000-01 Survey of Income and Housing Costs.

CONCEPTS AND ISSUES

The number of children living without an employed parent is one of a range of measures available to indicate the number of children at risk of experiencing disadvantage. Income-based measures can be used if the main area of interest is financial disadvantage. Other indicators of possible disadvantage include measures of poor health or lack of education. The measure chosen should reflect the key concerns.

If the measure chosen relates to the participation in employment of parents or other household members living with children, there are still a number of choices to be made to define the measure precisely, as shown below:

Choices when attempting to measure children at risk of disadvantage



Children

There are two definitions of children that could be used: children under 15 years and 'dependent children'. The term 'dependent child' is a broader concept. The ABS uses 'dependent child' to refer to any family member who is less than 15 years old, or who is 15-24 years old and a full-time student (except those classified as husbands, wives or parents).

Older dependent children (those aged 15-24 years) are more likely than children under 15 to have access to other sources of income, such as part-time work or Youth Allowance, rather than being reliant solely on their parents for income. For this reason there are some advantages to excluding them from analysis if the focus is on risk of financial hardship. The analysis in this article is of children under 15, as the group most at risk.

For the purposes of this article, a child under 15 is any individual under 15 who forms a parent-child relationship with another member of the household. In addition to natural, step or foster parent-child relationships, this also includes otherwise related children under 15 and unrelated children under 15. This means that, for example, a parent-child relationship could exist between two unrelated people, one of whom is under 15.

Families, households or parents?

There are three choices for a unit to be used as a basis to measure the participation in employment of people who have, or live with, children:

- the parent(s) who reside with a child
- the family² of a child, which will also include other related persons 15 years or older who usually reside with the parent(s) and the child
- the household³ in which a child lives, which will also include other families and unrelated persons 15 years or older who usually reside with the family.

Any of these measures may overstate the number of children at risk of living in disadvantaged circumstances if a parent living outside the household contributes to the economic wellbeing of the household.

Using a more restrictive measure (such as children living without an employed parent) may overstate the number of children at risk of financial hardship if someone else in the household contributes to the child's welfare.

However, using a less restrictive measure (such as children living in jobless households) may understate the number of children at risk, as other people living with the child, who are employed, may not provide financial support.

Parents are the most probable source of income support for children under 15 inside the household, which is why the ABS uses children living without an employed parent in its publications **Measures of Australia's Progress** (cat. no. 1370.0) and **Australian Social Trends** (cat. no. 4102.0).

If the area of interest is whether the child has an employed person as a role model, then using household, rather than family or parent, would include other employed people living with the child who might serve this function.

Table 1 shows the differences in the proportions of children included in each of the three different measures in 2000-01. Children living with one parent were much more likely to be living without an employed person than children living with two parents, in all of the measures. In 2000-01, of children living with one parent, nearly three in five (58%) did not have that parent employed, while almost half (49%) lived in a jobless household.

TABLE 1, Children under 15 living without an employed person(a) - 2000-01

| | Total children '000 | Children living in households with no employed person % | Children living in families with no employed person % | Children living without an employed parent % |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--|--|---|
| Living with one parent | 762.5 | 49.2 | 54.3 | 58.5 |
| Living with two parents | 3,133.4 | 6.5 | 6.9 | 7.4 |
| Total (%) | .. | 14.8 | 16.1 | 17.4 |
| Total ('000) | 3,895.8 | 578.2 | 628.7 | 678.1 |

.. not applicable

(a) Aged 15 years or over.

Source: Data available on request, Survey of Income and Housing Costs.

Measures of joblessness

Unemployment and non-employment are the two main alternatives when measuring joblessness. In ABS surveys, unemployed persons are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, had actively looked for work at any time in the four weeks up to the reference week, and were available for work in the reference week. Non-employment is a broader measure. As well as those who are unemployed, it also includes those who were not employed and did not meet the criteria to be unemployed (and may not even want a job).

Most of the analysis in this article is based on the non-employment measure. This measure includes those who choose not to work or are unable to work, as well as those who are unable to find work. People may not need to work if they have other sources of income. Other reasons for not actively seeking work include a preference to spend time caring for children or undertaking study. The reasons for being without employment are an important consideration when attempting to analyse any disadvantage to children in jobless families or households. Choosing to care for children rather than having a job may benefit, rather than disadvantage, children in non-financial ways. If a parent undertakes study, the economic wellbeing of the family may be improved later on. Non-employment will capture the core groups at risk of disadvantage, but it will also include groups not at risk.

Using the unemployment measure, rather than non-employment, will exclude some families that are at a relatively high risk of disadvantage, such as those where the parents are discouraged job seekers. Neither measure includes families with underemployed parents (i.e. part-time workers who would like to work more hours), which may be at risk of disadvantage.

TABLE 2, Children under 15 living with unemployed or non-employed parents - 2000-01

| | Total children | Children living with unemployed parents | | Children living without an employed parent | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---|------------|--|-------------|
| | '000 | '000 | % | '000 | % |
| Children living with one parent | 762.5 | 88.3 | 11.6 | 445.8 | 58.5 |
| Children living with two parents | 3,133.4 | *17.9 | *0.6 | (a)232.3 | 7.4 |
| Total | 3,895.8 | 106.2 | 2.7 | 678.1 | 17.4 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes approximately 79,000 children living with one parent who is unemployed and one parent who is not in the labour force.

Source: Data available on request, Survey of Income and Housing Costs.

In 2000-01, about 3% of all children under 15 lived with unemployed parents (either in a two parent family where both parents were unemployed, or in a one parent family where that parent was unemployed). About six times as many children (17%) lived without an employed parent. The proportion of children living with unemployed parents or parents who were not employed was much lower for two parent families than for one parent families.

DATA SOURCES

The choice of data source may be influenced by some of the considerations discussed above. There are several ABS collections that provide information on children living without an employed parent, including the Census of Population and Housing, the Labour Force Survey, and the Survey of Income and Housing Costs. These three data sources are discussed below.

Census of Population and Housing

The Census of Population and Housing is conducted every five years and collects a range of demographic, social and economic information about all people (except diplomatic personnel) in Australia on census night. The census provides information on the characteristics of jobless households, including, for example: the structure of families (e.g. couple or one parent); whether parents are seeking full-time work, part-time work, or are not looking for work; and family and household income measures. The 2004 edition of the ABS publication **Australian Social Trends** (cat. no. 4102.0) includes an article on jobless families with children, based on census data.

The main advantages of using census data for analysis are that there is no sampling error, small area data are available, and some useful data items and cross-classifications are available. However, the five yearly census does not provide frequent time series or information on recent trends.

Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is conducted monthly and can be used to provide estimates of 'jobless' families and related measures such as the number of children without an employed parent. Some data are available monthly, and additional information on children aged 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14 years is available annually in the June LFS.

The main advantages of using the LFS as a source for an indicator of jobless families are the frequency of the data and the relatively large sample size. Family data have been a by-product of the LFS since the early 1980s.

There are also some disadvantages of using the LFS as a source for this information. The LFS is not specifically designed to produce reliable family estimates. The purpose of the LFS is to provide information on the labour market activity of the usually resident civilian population of Australia aged 15 and over. LFS estimates of people who are employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are calculated to add up to independent estimates (or benchmarks) of the population. However, LFS family estimates are not benchmarked to the total number of children or families, since this benchmarking is not required for labour force estimation purposes. Given the level of interest in this topic, the ABS is currently considering ways to improve the quality of family estimates from the LFS through benchmarking and other means.

Survey of Income and Housing Costs

The Survey of Income and Housing Costs (SIHC) was conducted as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey from 1994-95 until 2002-03. This survey collected information on sources of income, amounts received and characteristics of persons. Data are available for every financial year from 1994-95 to 2002-03, except for 1998-99 and 2001-02. From 2003-04, SIHC will become the Survey of Income and Housing, and will be conducted every two years.

The SIHC is used as the data source for the analysis in this article because it provides data at more frequent intervals than the census, but also benchmarks to independent estimates of the number of children (unlike the LFS). Note that, for the following analysis by household composition (graph 2 and table 3), the population is restricted to children in one-family households. Children in households that contain more than one family, or one family plus other unrelated persons, are excluded.

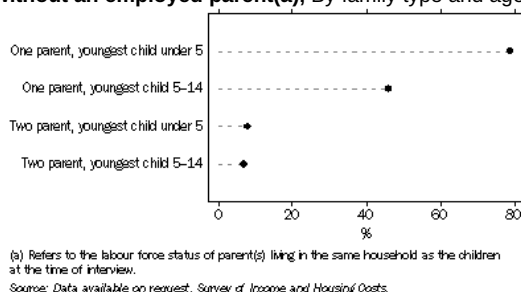
Like the Labour Force Survey (and all sample surveys), the SIHC is subject to sampling error. The SIHC has higher standard errors than the LFS, being drawn from a sample of about 7,000 households (until 2000-01, then 10,000 households for 2002-03) compared to about 30,000 households in the LFS.

CHILDREN LIVING WITHOUT AN EMPLOYED PARENT

Composition

One parent families are the main group of families without an employed parent. Graph 1 shows that in 2000-01, in one parent families where the youngest child was under five, 79% of children were living without an employed parent. This compares to 46% of children in one parent families where the youngest child was between five and 14. This suggests that many of these lone parents are taking time out of the labour force while their children are very young. In contrast, the proportion of children in two parent families without employment in 2000-01 was 8% when the youngest child was under five and 7% when the youngest child was aged five to 14. In 2000-01, 55% of children living in two parent families had both parents employed.

Graph 1, Children living without an employed parent(a), By family type and age of youngest child - 2000-01

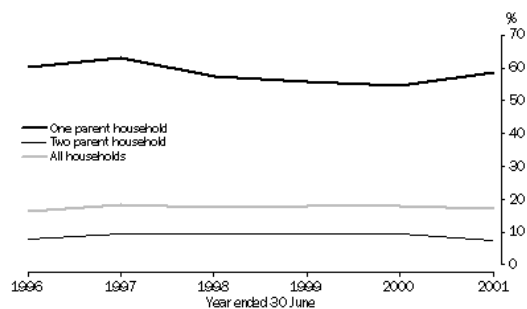


Changes over time

Between 1995-96 and 2000-01, there was little change in the proportion of children living without an employed parent (graph 2). The proportion of children living without an employed parent in one parent households declined from 60% in 1995-96 to 58% in 2000-01, while children living without an employed parent in two parent households declined from 8% to 7%.

Although the proportion of children living without an employed parent has declined between 1995-96 and 2000-01 for both one and two parent households, the total number of children without employed parents rose 8% between 1995-96 and 2000-01, due to the increase in one parent households. The number of one parent households increased 26% between 1995-96 and 2000-01, while the number of two parent households fell 5%.

Graph 2, Children(a) living without an employed parent(b)(c), Rates by household composition(d)



(a) Those less than 15 years of age.
 (b) Refers to the labour force status of parent(s) living in the same household as the children at the time of interview.
 (c) No survey was conducted in 1998-99.
 (d) One-family households only. Households containing more than one family, or a family plus other related persons, are excluded.
 Source: Data available on request, Survey of Income and Housing Costs.

Income characteristics

Table 3 shows that the main source of household income for families without an employed parent is government pensions or allowances. In 2000-01, government pensions or allowances were the main source of income for 86% of two parent households, and 95% of one parent households (where no parent was employed).

Table 3 also provides measures of equivalised disposable household income. This measure is adjusted to standardise income estimates with respect to household size and composition. It allows more meaningful comparisons between household types, because larger households normally need more income to maintain the same material standard of living as smaller households, and the needs of adults are usually greater than the needs of children. On the other hand, larger households can be expected to benefit from economies of scale of living together.

In 2000-01, two parent households where the parents were without employment had a lower mean equivalised disposable household income per week (\$199) than one parent households without an employed parent (\$218), or households with at least one employed parent (\$461).

TABLE 3, Income by household composition - 2000-01(a)

| | Two parent household only, without an employed parent | | | One parent household only, without an employed parent | | | Household with at least one employed parent | | |
|---|---|---------------------|--------------|---|---------------------|--------------|---|---------------------|----------------|
| | Youngest child under 5 | Youngest child 5-14 | Total | Youngest child under 5 | Youngest child 5-14 | Total | Youngest child under 5 | Youngest child 5-14 | Total |
| Main source of household income (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| Household has zero/negative income | 0.0 | **0.7 | **0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | **0.1 | *0.3 | *0.2 |
| Wages and salaries | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 82.7 | 86.3 | 84.7 |
| Own unincorporated business income | **2.5 | 0.0 | **1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 13.9 | 10.7 | 12.1 |
| Government pension or allowance | 89.6 | 83.4 | 86.4 | 98.4 | 91.3 | 94.7 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Other income | **7.9 | **17.3 | *12.7 | **1.6 | **8.7 | *5.3 | *1.2 | *0.9 | *1.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Equivalised disposable household income (\$) | | | | | | | | | |
| Mean income per week | 203 | 196 | 199 | 221 | 215 | 218 | 450 | 471 | 461 |
| Median income per week | 211 | 207 | 210 | 227 | 222 | 223 | 381 | 425 | 409 |
| Number of children in each equivalised disposable household income quintile ('000) | | | | | | | | | |
| Lowest (\$0 to \$246, per week) | 97.2 | 64.8 | 162.0 | 122.9 | 125.9 | 248.9 | 179.3 | 164.1 | 343.4 |
| Second (\$246 to \$351, per week) | **10.4 | **18.6 | *29.0 | 59.4 | 33.2 | 92.6 | 434.0 | 308.5 | 742.5 |
| Third (\$352 to \$482, per week) | 0.0 | **1.5 | **1.5 | **3.5 | **2.1 | **5.7 | 390.2 | 417.9 | 808.1 |
| Fourth (\$483 to \$644, per week) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | **2.0 | **2.0 | 209.5 | 358.9 | 568.4 |
| Fifth (\$645 and above) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 167.2 | 204.2 | 371.4 |
| Total children | 107.6 | 85.0 | 192.5 | 185.9 | 163.2 | 349.1 | 1,380.1 | 1,453.7 | 2,833.8 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) One-family households only. Households containing more than one family, or a family plus other related persons, are excluded.

Source: Data available on request, Survey of Income and Housing Costs.

In 2000-01, children living without an employed parent were concentrated in the bottom two equivalised disposable household income quintiles. Just over three-quarters (76%) of children living without an employed parent were in the lowest household income quintile, compared to 12% of children living with at least one employed parent. However, there were almost as many children in the lowest household income quintile living with at least one employed parent (about 343,000) as there were living without an employed parent (411,000).

CONCLUSION

There are various measures related to children living without an employed parent. Each measure has advantages and disadvantages. The most appropriate measure will depend on the key concerns.

Most of the children living without an employed parent live in one parent households. The number of one parent households rose 26% between 1995-96 and 2000-01, while the number of two parent households fell 5%. For one parent households, the age of the youngest child appears to be a factor in whether or not the parent is employed, with the proportion of children living without an employed parent significantly reduced when the youngest child is over five.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Assistant Director, Labour Market, on Canberra 02 6252 6562.

For email enquiries, please contact Client Services on client.services@abs.gov.au.

END NOTES

1 Dawkins, P. and Kelly, P. 2003, **Hard heads, soft hearts: a new reform agenda for Australia**, Allen and Unwin.

2 A **family** is two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years old, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship.

3 A **household** is a person living alone or a group of related or unrelated people who usually reside and eat together. A household can contain more than one family, or no families (e.g. a group household).

Labour Underutilisation (Feature Article)

Feature Article - Labour Underutilisation

This article was published in the July 2004 issue of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0).

INTRODUCTION

The extent to which the supply of labour is used is an important issue from a number of perspectives. From a social viewpoint, concern may centre around the number of individuals whose aspirations for work are not being met. From an economic perspective, interest may be focussed on measuring the extent to which available labour resources are not being fully utilised within the economy. ABS provides a wide range of data on available labour resources and the extent of labour underutilisation.

The unemployment rate and the number of unemployed people are widely used measures of the available labour resources that are not currently utilised in the economy. However, these measures do not represent the full extent of labour underutilisation. ABS has produced a series of broader measures that include other groups of people whose labour is underutilised, such as underemployed workers and discouraged jobseekers.

The ABS produces labour underutilisation measures based on the number of people whose labour is underutilised. These headcount measures provide an indication of the proportion of the population affected by labour underutilisation. The ABS has also recently developed some experimental volume measures of labour underutilisation, based on the number of hours of available labour that are unutilised. These measures may be more relevant for economic analysis of additional labour force capacity. The methodology for the volume measures is subject to more development work - hence their experimental status.

This article describes the headcount measures of labour underutilisation produced by the ABS, and the population groups that are included in these measures. It presents the first release of updated headcount underutilisation rates for September 2003. The article also includes experimental volume underutilisation rates for September 2003.

HEADCOUNT MEASURES OF LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION

The ABS produces five headcount measures of labour underutilisation, summarised in Table 1. The **unemployment rate** and **long-term unemployment rate** have been in use for many years. In February 2002, the ABS introduced two additional headcount measures to supplement these: the **labour force underutilisation rate** and the **extended labour force underutilisation rate**. The **underemployment rate** can also be calculated, as underemployment is a component of the labour force underutilisation rate.

Table 1, ABS Headcount measures of underutilisation

| Measure | Description |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Long-term unemployment rate | The long-term unemployed as a percentage of the labour force. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Unemployment rate | The unemployed as a percentage of the labour force. |
| Underemployment rate | The underemployed as a percentage of the labour force. |
| Labour force underutilisation rate | The unemployed plus the underemployed, as a percentage of the labour force. |
| Extended labour force underutilisation rate | The unemployed, plus the underemployed, plus two groups of persons marginally attached to the labour force: (i) persons actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start work within four weeks; and (ii) discouraged jobseekers; as a percentage of the labour force augmented by (i) and (ii). |

The terms used in the rates in Table 1 are defined below.

The unemployed

The ABS defines unemployed people as those aged 15 or over who were not employed during the reference week, and

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week, or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

The long-term unemployed

The long-term unemployed are people who are currently unemployed, and have been unemployed continuously for 12 months or more.

The underemployed

The ABS defines two groups of underemployed workers:

- part-time workers (i.e. people usually working less than 35 hours a week who did so in the reference week), who want to work additional hours and are available to do so within the next four weeks; and
- full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons initiated by their employer (e.g. they had been stood down, put on short time or there was insufficient work available for them). The ABS assumes that persons in this latter group wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

The marginally attached

The extended labour force underutilisation rate broadens the measure of underutilised labour to include some people who are not in the labour force. It includes, in addition to the unemployed and the underemployed, two groups of people defined as being **marginally attached** to the labour force:

- people actively looking for work, who were not available to start work in the reference week, but were available to start work within four weeks; and
- **discouraged jobseekers**. These are people wanting to work who are available to start work within four weeks and whose main reason for not looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for reasons associated with the labour market (i.e. considered too young or too old by employers; lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience; difficulties with language or ethnic background; no jobs in locality or line of work; or no jobs available at all).

These two groups of people are included in the extended labour force underutilisation rate because they are each close to satisfying the ABS criteria for unemployment. Those in the first group would meet the definition of unemployment if the availability criterion were relaxed by up to four weeks, while those in the second group would be classified as unemployed if the looking for work criterion were relaxed for discouraged jobseekers.

Population counts

Table 2 shows the September 2003 population counts for the various groups that are included in the headcount measures of labour underutilisation.

Table 2, Labour underutilisation, population counts - September 2003

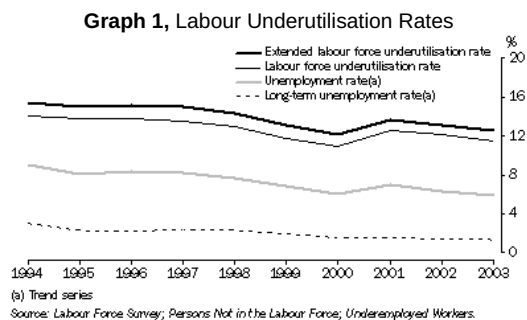
| | Males '000 | Females '000 | Persons '000 |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Long-term unemployed persons | 84.0 | 45.1 | 129.1 |
| Total unemployed persons | 321.0 | 275.2 | 596.3 |
| Underemployed workers | 230.5 | 336.8 | 567.4 |
| Underemployed full-time workers | 30.4 | 9.2 | 39.6 |
| Underemployed part-time workers | 200.2 | 327.6 | 527.7 |
| Total underutilised labour in labour force | 551.6 | 612.0 | 1,163.6 |
| Labour force | 5,609.9 | 4,552.8 | 10,162.6 |
| Additional population groups with marginal attachment to the labour force | 43.7 | 75.5 | 119.2 |

Source: ABS September 2003 Labour Force Survey; Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 2003 (cat. no. 6220.0); Underemployed Workers, Australia, September 2003 (cat. no. 6265.0).

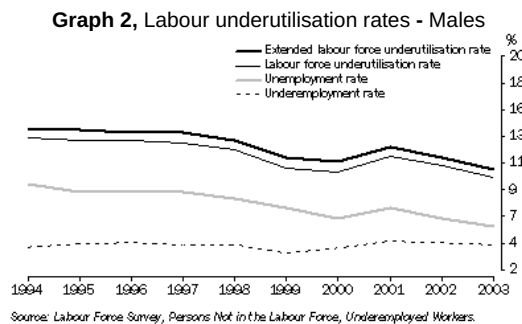
TRENDS IN HEADCOUNT MEASURES OF LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION

Overall, movement in unemployment is the primary driver of movements in the headcount measures of labour underutilisation, although underemployment has been increasing in relative importance in recent years, particularly for women. Levels of unemployment, and the unemployment rate, fluctuate with the economic cycle. In the decade to 2003, the trend unemployment rate almost halved, from 11% in September 1993 to 6% in September 2003.

The labour force underutilisation rate in September 2003 was twice the size of the unemployment rate (12% compared with 6%), while the extended labour force underutilisation rate was 13%.

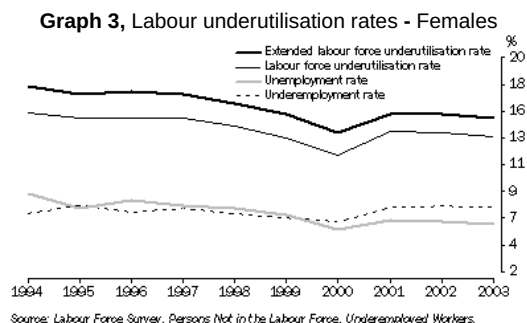


The labour force underutilisation rate can be obtained by adding the unemployment rate and the underemployment rate. The following graphs show the changes in each of these rates for men and women. For men, the unemployment rate has been consistently higher than the underemployment rate, although the gap between the two has narrowed in recent years. In 1994, men who were unemployed accounted for 71% of all men in the labour force whose labour was underutilised. By 2003, this had declined to 58%.



Overall, women have a higher rate of labour force underutilisation than men, due to their higher rate of underemployment, which, in turn, is related to the higher proportion of women who are in part-time employment. Between 1994 and 2003, the rate of underemployment for women was between 1.6 and 1.9 times that of men. In 2000, the unemployment rate for women fell below the underemployment rate and has stayed lower since then. In 2003, unemployed women accounted for 45% of all women whose labour was underutilised.

The extended labour force underutilisation rate for women was also higher than that for men, not only because women had a higher rate of underemployment than men, but also because there was a higher proportion of women in the marginally attached populations that contribute to the extended labour force underutilisation rate.



EXPERIMENTAL VOLUME MEASURES OF LABOUR FORCE UNDERUTILISATION

Labour underutilisation can also be measured in terms of the number of hours of available labour in the economy that is not utilised. Such measures may be more relevant for analysing the spare capacity of the labour force. ABS has developed an experimental hours-based (or 'volume') version of the labour force underutilisation rate for September 2002 and 2003. Separate rates relating to the volume of unemployment and the volume of underemployment can also be calculated. These three measures are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3, ABS Experimental volume measures of labour force underutilisation(a)

| Measure | Description |
|---|--|
| Volume unemployment rate | The hours of labour sought by unemployed persons, as a percentage of the volume of potential labour. |
| Volume underemployment rate | The additional hours of labour offered by underemployed workers, as a percentage of the volume of potential labour. |
| Volume labour force underutilisation rate | The total volume of unutilised labour in the labour force (hours sought by those in unemployment, plus additional hours offered by those in underemployment), as a percentage of the volume of potential labour. |

(a) The volume of potential labour in the labour force is equal to the hours of labour sought by unemployed persons, plus the hours of labour offered by underemployed workers (both utilised and unutilised), plus the hours of labour usually provided by employed persons who are not underemployed.

The volume of potential labour sought or offered by population groups contributing to the experimental volume measures is shown in Table 4. The estimate of the hours of work sought by unemployed persons was derived by applying information on weekly hours sought by unemployed persons from the July survey on Job Search Experience to the numbers of unemployed persons from the September Labour Force Survey.

Table 4, Volume of potential labour in the labour force - number of weekly hours: Experimental measures - September 2003

| | Males '000 hours | Females '000 hours | Persons '000 hours |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Unemployed persons (hours of work sought) | 10,924.5 | 7,822.8 | 18,747.3 |
| Looking for full-time work | 9,899.7 | 6,022.4 | 15,922.1 |
| Looking for part-time work | 1,024.8 | 1,800.4 | 2,825.2 |
| Underemployed workers (additional hours of work offered) | 4,203.3 | 4,806.3 | 9,009.6 |
| Underemployed full-time workers | 778.3 | 203.0 | 981.2 |
| Underemployed part-time workers | 3,425.0 | 4,603.4 | 8,028.3 |
| Employed persons (usual hours of work performed)(a) | 218,127.6 | 130,761.2 | 348,888.8 |
| Full-time workers | 205,229.2 | 96,482.9 | 301,712.1 |
| Part-time workers | 12,898.3 | 34,278.4 | 47,176.7 |
| Total volume of potential labour in the labour force(b) | 233,255.3 | 143,390.3 | 376,645.7 |

(a) Actual hours worked in the reference week for underemployed full-time workers and usual hours worked for all other employed persons.

(b) The volume of potential labour in the labour force is equal to the hours of labour sought by unemployed persons, plus the hours of labour offered by underemployed workers (both utilised and unutilised), plus the hours of labour usually provided by employed persons who are not underemployed.

Source: ABS Labour Force Survey, September 2003; Job Search Experience, Australia, July 2003 (cat. no. 6222.0); Underemployed Workers, Australia, September 2003 (cat. no. 6265.0).

In September 2003, hours sought by the unemployed formed the largest component of the volume labour force underutilisation rate, accounting for just over two-thirds (68%) of the volume of underutilised labour in the labour force.

On average, unemployed people sought 31 hours of work a week, with men seeking 34 hours compared to 28 hours for women (see Table 5). In contrast, underemployed people offered an average of 16 hours of additional labour, with men again offering more hours (18 hours) than women (14 hours).

TABLE 5, Underutilised labour - mean number of weekly hours sought/offered by selected groups: Experimental estimates - September 2003

| | Males hours | Females hours | Persons hours |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Unemployed | 34.0 | 28.4 | 31.4 |
| Unemployed seeking full-time work | 37.8 | 33.6 | 36.1 |
| Unemployed seeking part-time work | 17.4 | 18.7 | 18.2 |
| Underemployed | 17.7 | 14.2 | 15.6 |
| Underemployed full-time workers | 21.0 | 17.5 | 20.1 |
| Underemployed part-time workers | 17.1 | 14.1 | 15.2 |

Source: ABS Labour Force Survey, September 2003; Job Search Experience, Australia, July 2003 (cat. no. 6222.0); Underemployed Workers, Australia, September 2003 (cat. no. 6265.0).

COMPARISON OF HEADCOUNT AND VOLUME MEASURES

Table 6 compares the experimental volume rates with the corresponding headcount rates. For all three measures of labour underutilisation (i.e. unemployment, underemployment and labour force underutilisation), the experimental volume rates for September 2003 were lower than the corresponding headcount rates.

TABLE 6, Measures of labour underutilisation - selected headcount and volume measures: Experimental estimates - September 2003

| | Males % | Females % | Persons % |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Headcount measures | | | |
| Unemployment rate | 5.7 | 6.0 | 5.9 |
| Underemployment rate(a) | 4.2 | 7.4 | 5.7 |
| Labour force underutilisation rate(a) | 10.0 | 13.5 | 11.5 |
| Volume measures | | | |
| Volume unemployment rate | 4.7 | 5.5 | 5.0 |
| Volume underemployment rate | 1.8 | 3.4 | 2.4 |
| Volume labour force underutilisation rate | 6.5 | 8.8 | 7.4 |

(a) To provide greater comparability with the experimental volume measures, data on the number of underemployed full-time workers are sourced from the Labour Force Survey rather than the Underemployed Workers Survey.

Unlike the headcount measures, the volume measures take into account the number of hours worked or sought by individuals and this has the effect of weighting people according to the number of hours they either worked or sought. For example, the large difference between the headcount and volume underemployment rates (5.7% and 2.4% respectively) reflects the large difference between the additional hours offered by the underemployed (15.6 hours a week) and those worked by the employed (36.5 hours).

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The ABS is continuing to develop both its headcount and volume measures of labour underutilisation. Within the next year it plans to: introduce a quarterly series of the (headcount) labour force underutilisation rate; investigate the inclusion of additional population groups within the extended labour force underutilisation rate; continue to develop its experimental volume measures of labour force underutilisation; and pursue discussions aimed at achieving international agreement on definitions and terminology for measures of labour underutilisation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Information Paper: Measures of Labour Underutilisation (cat. no. 6296.0) describes the concepts behind the ABS headcount measures of labour underutilisation in detail. For further information on the concepts behind the volume measures, see the 'Experimental volume measures of labour underutilisation' article in the July 2003 issue of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0).

For further information, please contact the Assistant Director, Labour Market, on Canberra 02 6252 5603.

For email enquiries, please contact Client Services on client.services@abs.gov.au.

NEW UNDERUTILISED LABOUR SPREADSHEET

A spreadsheet containing labour underutilisation measures is now available. To find the spreadsheet, click [here](#)

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

INTRODUCTION

1 Australian Labour Market Statistics brings together a range of ABS labour statistics to present a statistical summary of the Australian labour market. It has been developed primarily as a reference document, and provides a broad basis for labour analysis and research.

2 In addition to data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), this publication contains statistics from a range of other ABS labour surveys including Average Weekly Earnings, the Wage Cost Index, Job Vacancies, Employment and Earnings - Public Sector, and Industrial Disputes. The publication also includes summary data from recently released labour force supplementary surveys.

3 This publication also includes international data for selected labour market indicators.

LABOUR STATISTICS CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

4 The concepts and definitions underpinning ABS labour statistics align closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts of Australia's labour market statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates, are presented in **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), which is also available on the ABS web site at <https://www.abs.gov.au> (About Statistics - Concepts & Classifications).

5 For an explanation of terms used in this publication, refer to the Glossary.

LABOUR STATISTICS THEME PAGE

6 The Labour Statistics theme page is a portal to all labour statistics and related information residing on the ABS web site. The page contains hyperlinks to **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0); information about labour related surveys including the data items each survey collects and contact details for further assistance; and a help page for respondents to ABS labour related surveys.

TREND ESTIMATES

7 Series in this publication include **original** and **trend** series. Special care should be taken in interpreting data for the most recent months and quarters, as some of the original and all of the trend series are subject to revision.

8 It is not uncommon for movements in original time series data and those provided from trend series to differ. Movements in a time series of

original data may reflect several factors, including:

- longer-term changes in the item being measured (i.e. trend movements)
- short-term irregular changes
- regular seasonal influences
- normal 'trading', 'working' or 'pay' day patterns
- systematic holiday effects.

9 Trend estimates help the user to identify the underlying magnitude and direction of a time series. Seasonal adjustment removes the effect of the last three listed influences from the data, leaving only trend and short-term irregular movements. Trend estimates are then obtained by removing the effects of the short-term irregularities, which in some series can be a major contributor to movements in the original data.

10 Trend estimates are produced by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series using a statistical procedure based on Henderson moving averages. At each time point in a series, a trend estimate is calculated using a centred x-term Henderson moving average of the seasonally adjusted series. The moving averages are centred on the point in time at which the trend is being estimated. The number of terms used to calculate the trend varies across surveys. Generally, ABS monthly surveys use a 13-term moving average and quarterly surveys use a 7-term moving average.

11 Estimates for the most recent time points cannot be calculated using the centred average method as there are insufficient data to do so. Instead, alternative approaches that approximate the smoothing properties of the Henderson moving average are used. This can lead to revision in the trend estimates for the most recent time periods until sufficient data are available to calculate the trend using the centred Henderson moving average. Revisions of trend estimates will also occur with revisions to the original data and re-estimation of seasonal adjustment factors.

12 Seasonal factors are reviewed at least annually for ABS labour series, to take account of additional original data. The results of the latest reviews were used to compile the trend estimates given in this publication. For further information about the most recent reviews of seasonal factors for the labour surveys, see the following publications:

- for labour force see **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0)
- for wage cost index see **Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0)
- for average weekly earnings see **Average Weekly Earnings, Australia** (cat. no. 6302.0)
- for public sector employees see **Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia** (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001)
- for job vacancies see **Job Vacancies, Australia** (cat. no. 6354.0).

13 The general methods used in the ABS for estimating trends are described in **Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends** (cat. no. 1349.0).

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

14 Estimates in this publication are subject to two types of error:

- sampling error - errors that occur because the data were obtained from a sample rather than the entire population
- non-sampling error - errors that occur at any stage of a survey and can also occur in a census, e.g. incorrect responses to questions, processing errors, frame deficiencies.

15 For more information on these sources of error, and on measures of these types of errors, including standard errors, refer to the main publications associated with each of the data series presented in this publication (see the relevant sections later in these Explanatory Notes). More information on standard errors applying to LFS estimates is contained in **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Standard Errors** (cat. no. 6298.0).

ROUNDING

16 Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY DATA

Description of the survey

17 Data in tables 1.1-1.7, 2.1-2.10, 3.1-3.3, 4.3 and 4.4 are obtained from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which provides extensive information about the labour market on a monthly basis. The LFS is a component of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS), which includes the LFS and supplementary surveys.

Monthly Population Survey

18 The MPS is a population survey based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (currently about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.), and list samples of discrete Indigenous communities and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about 0.5% of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from occupants of selected dwellings by interviewers, with the first interview conducted face-to-face and subsequent interviews over the telephone. Once selected, households are included for eight consecutive months before being replaced.

Labour Force Survey

19 The LFS has been conducted on a monthly basis since February 1978. Prior to that, from 1964 to 1978, a national survey was conducted quarterly. Telephone interviewing was introduced between August 1996 and February 1997. New questionnaires have been introduced periodically, most recently in April 2001.

20 The LFS includes all usual residents of Australia aged 15 and over except:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

21 From July 1993, Jervis Bay Territory has been excluded from the scope of the LFS.

Supplementary surveys

22 The supplementary surveys collect additional data on a different topic each month. Many topics covered are rotated on an annual or less frequent basis, while others are included once only. Results from each supplementary survey topic are released separately. A list of topics covered in recent years is in Appendix 3.

23 Tables 4.1 and 4.2 contain data from the annual supplementary surveys Underemployed Workers and Persons Not in the Labour Force. These tables are updated annually.

24 The supplementary surveys include a subset of the persons included in the LFS (see paragraph 20). The additional exclusions for most supplementary surveys are:

- persons living in private dwellings in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia
- institutionalised persons
- boarding school pupils.

Reference period

25 Interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month, with questions relating to the week prior to the interview (the reference week).

Notes on data

26 From time to time, changes to survey methodology affect the time series produced. Some examples of changes to this survey are: new questions added to the LFS questionnaire in April 2001; and the introduction of telephone interviewing in 1996-97.

27 In February 2004 the definition of unemployed persons was changed to include all persons who were waiting to start work and were available to start in the reference week, with consequent revisions to data from April 2001 to January 2004. For further details, see **Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics** (cat. no. 6292.0).

Population benchmarks

28 LFS estimates of persons employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are calculated in such a way as to add up to independently estimated counts (benchmarks) of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. These benchmarks are based on census data adjusted for under-enumeration and updated for births, deaths, interstate migration, and net permanent and long-term migration. This procedure compensates for under-enumeration in the survey, and leads to more reliable estimates.

29 From February 2004, labour force estimates have been compiled using benchmarks based on the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Revisions were made to historical estimates from January 1999 to January 2004. These revisions affect original, seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The next revision is scheduled for February 2009 to take account of the results from the 2006 census.

Families series

30 Family relationship is not determined for all households and persons in scope of the LFS. This is due to a number of factors related to the scope and coverage of the LFS, as well as difficulties in determining family structure and characteristics. The survey questions used to determine family relationships are restricted to persons enumerated as usual residents of private dwellings. That is, the following persons are excluded:

- all persons enumerated in non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals and other institutions)
- persons enumerated as visitors to (rather than usual residents of) private dwellings.

31 In addition, in those households where it is not possible to obtain information relating to all the usual residents, no family information is recorded. Thus, persons living in households which include a member of the permanent defence forces, who is outside the scope of the LFS, are excluded from survey questions used to determine family relationships. This also applies to households that, at the time of the survey, had one or more of their usual residents away for more than six weeks, and households from which an incomplete or inadequate questionnaire was obtained for any usual resident in scope of the survey.

Further information and data on the LFS

32 LFS estimates are published monthly in **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0). A series of time-series spreadsheets are released at the same time as this publication under catalogue number 6202.0.55.001. More detailed estimates are released, in electronic format, one week later, under catalogue number 6291.0.55.001. All electronic data can be accessed via the ABS web site at <https://www.abs.gov.au>. Additional data are available on request.

33 For further information about the range of LFS products and services, and the concepts and methodology used in the LFS, refer to **Information Paper: Changes to Labour Force Survey Products** (cat. no. 6297.0), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), or contact the Assistant Director, Labour Force Survey on Canberra 02 6252 6565.

EMPLOYER SURVEY DATA

34 Tables 2.11, 5.1-5.3, 6.1-6.2 and 7.1 of this publication contain data from ABS employer surveys.

Scope of employer surveys

35 Except where otherwise noted, the ABS labour employer surveys are selected from the ABS Business Register, which is primarily based on registrations to the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Pay As You Go Withholding scheme. The population is updated quarterly to take account of new businesses, business that have ceased employing, changes in employment levels, changes in industry, and other general business changes. Businesses excluded from the scope of the employer surveys are:

- those primarily engaged in Agriculture, forestry and fishing (except for the Survey of Employment and Earnings)
- private households employing staff
- overseas embassies, consulates, etc.
- those located outside Australia.

JOB VACANCIES DATA

36 Table 7.1 contains data from the Job Vacancies Survey (JVS).

Description of the survey

37 The current Job Vacancies Survey has been conducted since November 1983 and is a quarterly sample survey of approximately 4,600 employers. The survey produces estimates of the number of job vacancies in Australia.

Reference date

38 The reference date for the survey is the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter.

Notes on data

39 Prior to the August quarter 1999, job vacancies statistics were collected as part of the Job Vacancies and Overtime Survey. The overtime component of the survey ceased following the May quarter 1999.

Further information

40 For further information about the range of products and services relating to ABS job vacancies statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to **Job Vacancies, Australia** (cat. no. 6354.0), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS web site, or contact the Manager, Job Vacancies Survey on Perth 08 9360 5304.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES DATA

Description of the survey

41 Data in table 2.11 are obtained from a quarterly survey of public sector businesses: the Survey of Employment and Earnings - Public Sector (SEE). This survey has been conducted on a quarterly basis since the September quarter 1983. The survey measures both the number of public sector wage and salary earners employed in the middle month of each quarter and their total quarterly earnings.

Reference period

42 The reference period for employees is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. The reference period for gross earnings is all pay periods which end within the quarter.

Notes on data

43 The private sector component of the Survey of Employment and Earnings was discontinued after the December quarter 2001.

Further information

44 For further information about the range of products and services relating to public service employees, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to **Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia** (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), or contact the Manager, Survey of Employment and Earnings, Public Sector on Perth 08 9360 3141.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS DATA

45 Table 5.2 contains data from the Survey of Average Weekly Earnings (AWE).

Description of the survey

46 The Survey of Average Weekly Earnings has been conducted quarterly since August 1981. Approximately 4,700 businesses contribute to the survey each quarter. The purpose of the survey is to measure average gross weekly earnings per employee job in Australia.

47 Average weekly earnings statistics represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. Changes in the averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes in the overall composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

Reference period

48 The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. For non-weekly payrolls, businesses are asked to provide one week's portion.

Further information

49 For further information about the range of products and services relating to average weekly earnings refer to **Average Weekly Earnings, Australia** (cat. no. 6302.0), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS web site, or contact the Manager, Survey of Average Weekly Earnings on Perth 08 9360 5304.

WAGE COST INDEX DATA

50 Table 5.1 contains data from the **Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0) publication.

Description of the survey

51 The Wage Cost Index (WCI) is a price index which measures changes over time in wage and salary costs for employee jobs, unaffected by changes in the quality or quantity of work performed. Changes in wages and salaries resulting from changes in the composition of the labour market are excluded from the WCI movements. Index numbers have been compiled and published since December quarter 1997 (with a reference base of September quarter 1997 = 100.0). Approximately 19,000 matched jobs from 4,100 qualifying businesses are priced each quarter.

Reference period

52 The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the mid-month of the quarter.

Further information

53 For further information about the range of products and services relating to the Wage Cost Index, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to **Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0), **Information Paper: Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6346.0), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS web site, or contact the Labour Price Index Output Group on Perth 08 9360 5151.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES DATA

54 Tables 6.1 and 6.2 contain data from the Industrial Disputes collection.

Description of the survey

55 The ABS has been collecting information about industrial disputes since 1913. The Industrial Disputes collection produces estimates of the number of industrial disputes (where ten or more working days are lost), employees involved, and working days lost.

56 The scope of the Industrial Disputes collection is restricted to employing businesses at which an industrial dispute has occurred. For this collection, industrial disputes are defined as work stoppages of ten working days or more. Ten working days are equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day, regardless of the length of the stoppage, e.g. 3,000 workers on strike for two hours would be counted as 750 working days lost (assuming they work an eight-hour day).

57 Effects on other establishments not directly involved in the dispute, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included in the scope of this collection.

Reference period

58 The collection reference period is the calendar quarter.

Further information

59 For further information about the range of products and services relating to ABS industrial disputes statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to the electronic publication **Industrial Disputes, Australia** (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001) and the associated time series spreadsheets, available from the ABS web site, **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0), or contact the Manager, Industrial Disputes on Perth 08 9360 5159.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS DATA

60 Table 5.3 contains data from the Australian National Accounts.

61 Estimates of compensation of employees are contained within the Income Accounts of the Australian National Accounts, which are published in **Australian System of National Accounts** (cat. no. 5204.0) and **Australian Economic Indicators** (cat. no. 1350.0). For further information on how estimates are obtained, see **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0).

INTERNATIONAL DATA

62 Table 1.8 contains data from the International Labour Organisation.

63 Estimates of key indicators of the labour markets from various countries have been included for comparison with Australian estimates of labour force participation, employment, unemployment and unemployment rates.

Glossary

Active steps to find work

Includes writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering an advertisement for a job; checking factory noticeboards or the touchscreens at Centrelink offices; being registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

Actual hours worked

The hours actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

Adult employees

Adult employees are those employees 21 years of age or over and those employees who, although under 21 years of age, are paid at the full adult rate for their occupation.

Aggregate (actual) hours worked

The total number of hours a group of employed persons has actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

Attending full-time education

Persons aged 15-24 years who were enrolled full-time at secondary school, high school, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

Average compensation per employee

National Accounts. The total compensation of employees divided by the number of employees.

Average earnings (National Accounts basis)

See **average compensation per employee**.

Average hours worked

Aggregate hours worked by a group divided by the number of persons in that group.

Average weekly earnings

Average weekly earnings represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 35 of the Explanatory Notes.

Civilian population aged 15 years and over

All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Commonwealth government employees

Employees of all departments, agencies and authorities created by or reporting to the Commonwealth Parliament. Those bodies run jointly by the Commonwealth Government and state governments are classified to Commonwealth.

Compensation of employees

National Accounts. The total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by enterprises to employees in return for work done by the employees during the accounting period. Compensation of employees comprises wages and salaries (in cash and in kind) and **employers' social contributions**. Compensation of employees is not payable in respect of unpaid work undertaken voluntarily, including the work done by members of a household within an unincorporated enterprise owned by the same household. Compensation of employees excludes any taxes payable by the employer on the wage and salary bill (e.g. payroll tax, fringe benefits tax). See **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

Contributing family worker

A person who works without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

Country of birth

Classified according to the **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)** (cat. no. 1269.0).

Couple families

A family based on two persons who are in a registered or de facto marriage and who are usually resident in the same household.

Dependent child

Any child in a family under 15 years of age or aged 15-24 years who is attending full-time education (except those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household).

Dependent student

A child who is 15-24 years of age, who is attending full-time education, and who has no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the same household.

Discouraged jobseekers

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:

- considered to be too young/too old by employers
- lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience
- difficulties because of language or ethnic background
- no jobs in their locality or line of work
- no jobs available at all.

Duration of unemployment

Under the redesigned LFS questionnaire, implemented in April 2001, the definition of duration of unemployment is the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

Prior to April 2001, duration of unemployment was defined in the LFS as the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked full-time for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

Employed

Employed persons include all persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers)
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers)
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement
 - on strike or locked out
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employed full-time

See **full-time employed**.

Employed part-time

See **part-time employed**.

Employee

Labour Force Survey and other household surveys. A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or a person who operates their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

Employer surveys. Employees are wage and salary earners who received pay for any part of the reference period. For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 35 of the Explanatory Notes.

Employee job

Wage Cost Index. A job for which the occupant receives remuneration in wages, salary, payment in kind, or piece rates. All employee jobs in all employing organisations (except those excluded from all ABS labour employer surveys) are in scope of the WCI, except the following:

- 'non-maintainable' jobs (i.e. jobs that are expected to be occupied for less than six months of a year)
- jobs for which wages and salaries are not determined by the Australian labour market (e.g. working proprietors of small incorporated enterprises, most employees of Community Development Employment Programs, jobs where the remuneration is set in a foreign country).

For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 35 of the Explanatory Notes.

Employer

Labour Force Survey and other household surveys. A person who operates their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.

Employer surveys. A business with one or more employees.

Employers' social contributions

National Accounts. Contributions by employers to pension and superannuation funds; and premiums paid by employers to workers' compensation schemes for occupational injuries and diseases.

Extended labour force underutilisation rate

The unemployed, plus the underemployed, plus two groups of marginally attached to the labour force:

- (i) persons actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start work within four weeks and
- (ii) discouraged jobseekers

as a percentage of the labour force augmented by (i) and (ii).

Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

Family reference person

In families which are not couple families or one-parent families, as defined, the family reference person is the eldest person in the household.

Former workers

Unemployed persons who have previously worked for two weeks or more but not in the last two years.

Full-time educational attendance

Persons aged 15-19 who, during the reference week were enrolled full-time at secondary or high schools, and those aged 15-24 who, during the reference week, were enrolled full-time at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other tertiary educational institution.

Full-time employed

Household surveys. Persons employed full-time are those employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Full-time employees

Employer surveys. Full-time employees are permanent, fixed term and casual employees who normally work the agreed or award hours for a full-time employee in their occupation and received pay for any part of the reference period. If agreed or award hours do not apply, employees are regarded as full-time if they ordinarily work 35 hours or more per week.

Gross domestic product (GDP)

National Accounts. The total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Thus gross domestic product, as here defined, is at 'market prices'. It is equivalent to gross national expenditure plus exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services. See **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

Gross mixed income (GMI)

National Accounts. The owners of unincorporated enterprises, or other members of their households, may work without receiving any wage or salary. Mixed income includes both **gross operating surplus** for the unincorporated enterprises and returns for the proprietors' own labour (akin to wages and salaries). See **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

Gross operating surplus (GOS)

National Accounts. The amount of gross output remaining after subtracting costs incurred in producing that output, but before any deductions for consumption of fixed capital. See **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

Household

A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, i.e. at different times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but no meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of families and non-family members.

Industrial dispute

An industrial dispute is defined as a state of disagreement over an issue or group of issues between an employer and its employees, which results in employees ceasing work. Industrial disputes comprise strikes, which are a withdrawal from work by a group of employees; and lockouts, which are a refusal by an employer or group of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work.

Industry

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that perform similar sets of activities in terms of the production of goods and services. Industry is classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993** (cat. no. 1292.0). The industry assigned to an employed person is the industry of the organisation in which the person's main job is located. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the industry of their most recent job.

Job leavers

Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and **left that job voluntarily** - that is, because (for example): of unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours; the job was a holiday job or they left the job to return to studies; or their last job was running their own business and they closed down or sold that business for reasons other than financial difficulties.

Job losers

Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and **left that job involuntarily**: that is, they were laid off or retrenched from that job; left that job because of their own ill-health or injury; the job was seasonal or temporary; or their last job was running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties.

Job vacancy

A job vacancy is an employee job available for immediate filling on the survey reference date and for which recruitment action has been taken. Recruitment action includes efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying public or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or organisation. Excluded are vacancies:

- for jobs which became vacant on the survey date and were filled that same day
- for jobs of less than one day's duration
- to be filled by persons already hired, or by promotion or transfer of existing employees
- to be filled by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial dispute(s)
- not available for immediate filling on the survey reference date
- for work to be carried out by contractors
- for which no recruitment action has been taken
- where a person has been appointed but has not yet commenced duty
- to be filled by staff from contract labour agencies
- for jobs available only to persons already employed by the enterprise or organisation.

For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 35 of the Explanatory Notes.

Labour force

The labour force is the labour supply available for the production of economic goods and services in a given period, and is the most widely used measure of the economically active population. Persons in the labour force are classified as either employed or unemployed according to their activities during the reference period by using a specific set of priority rules.

Labour force status

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

Labour force underutilisation rate

The unemployed plus the underemployed, as a percentage of the labour force.

Local government employees

Employees of municipalities and shires and other local authorities created by or subject to the provisions of local government legislation, such as county councils in New South Wales.

Lone parent

A person who has no spouse or partner present in the household but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one dependent or non-dependent child usually resident in the household.

Lone person

A person who makes provision for their food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household. They may live in a dwelling on their own or share a dwelling with another individual or family.

Long-term unemployed

Persons unemployed for 12 months or more. See **duration of unemployment** for details of the calculation of duration of unemployment.

Long-term unemployment rate

The number of long-term unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Marginal attachment to the labour force

Persons who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work, and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed or
- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks or could start work within four weeks if child care was available.

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

Marital status

See **social marital status**.

Mean age

The sum of the ages of all the persons in a group, divided by the total number of persons in that group.

Mean duration of unemployment

The sum of the duration of unemployment of all the unemployed persons in a group, divided by the total number of unemployed persons in that group.

Median age

The age which divides a group of persons into two equal groups: one comprising persons whose age is above the median; and the other, persons whose age is below it.

Median duration of unemployment

The duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups: one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median; and the other, persons whose duration is below it.

Non-dependent child

A child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, aged over 15 years and who is not a dependent student aged 15-24 years, and who has no partner or child of their own usually resident in the household.

Non-family member

A person who is not related to any other member of the household in which they are living.

Not in the labour force

Persons who were not classified as employed or unemployed.

Occupation

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their main tasks to be grouped together for the purposes of classification. Occupation is classified according to the **ASCO Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition** (cat. no. 1220.0). The occupation assigned to an employed person relates to the person's main job. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the occupation of their most recent job.

One-parent family

A family consisting of a lone parent with at least one dependent or non-dependent child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household.

Ordinary time earnings

See **weekly ordinary time earnings**.

Original series

Estimates produced directly from the survey data, before seasonal adjustment or trend estimation takes place.

Other family

Related individuals residing in the same household who do not form a couple or parent-child relationship with any other person in the household and are not attached to a couple or one parent family in the household. If two brothers, for example, are living together and neither is a spouse, a lone parent or a child, then they are classified as other family.

Overtime earnings

See **weekly overtime earnings**.

Own-account worker

A person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.

Participation rate

The labour force participation rate for any group within the population is the labour force component of that population, expressed as a percentage of the population in that group.

Part-time employed

Household surveys. Persons employed part-time are those employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Reason for leaving last job

Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the past two years classified by whether they left that job voluntarily, that is, job leavers; or left that job involuntarily, that is, job losers.

Seasonally adjusted series

A time series of estimates with the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation removed. See paragraphs 7-13 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

Social marital status

Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married.

State capital cities

The areas determining the six state capital cities are the Statistical Divisions for those capital cities defined in the **Statistical Geography: Volume 1 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)** (cat. no. 1216.0).

State government employees

Employees of all State government departments and authorities created by, or reporting to, State Parliaments, including organisations for which the Commonwealth has assumed financial responsibility. Following self-government, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory administrations have been classified to State Governments. Employees of State Governments employed interstate are included in the estimates of the State in which they are based.

Status in employment

Employed persons classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

Total earnings

See **weekly total earnings**.

Total hourly rates of pay index

Wage Cost Index. This index measures quarterly change in combined ordinary time and overtime hourly rates of pay. See **Wage Cost Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0) for more information.

Trend series

A smoothed seasonally adjusted series of estimates. See paragraphs 7-13 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

Underemployed workers

Underemployed workers are employed persons who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- persons employed part-time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey
- persons employed full-time who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

Underemployment rate

The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week, or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Unemployed looking for first full-time job

Unemployed persons looking for full-time work who had never worked full-time for two weeks or more.

Unemployed looking for first job

Unemployed persons who had never worked for two weeks or more.

Unemployed looking for full-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work, or
- were waiting to start a new full-time job.

Unemployed looking for part-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only, or
- were waiting to start a new part-time job.

Unemployment rate

The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Unemployment to population ratio

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.

Usual hours worked

The hours usually worked per week by an employed person.

Wage and salary earners

See **employee**.

Weekly ordinary time earnings

Weekly ordinary time earnings refers to one week's earnings of employees for the reference period attributable to award, standard or agreed hours of work, calculated before taxation and any other deductions (e.g. superannuation, board and lodging) have been made. Included are piecework payments and one week's portion of regular production and task bonuses and commissions. Excluded are overtime payments and payments not related to the reference period, e.g. bonus payments for earlier periods of work.

Weekly overtime earnings

Weekly overtime earnings refers to payment for hours worked in the reference week in excess of award, standard or agreed hours of work, calculated before taxation and any other deductions (e.g. superannuation) have been made.

Weekly total earnings

Weekly total earnings of employees is equal to weekly ordinary time earnings plus weekly overtime earnings.

Working days lost

Refers to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute.

Working days lost per thousand employees

Calculated for a quarterly period by dividing the total number of working days lost in the period by the total number of employees in the Australian labour force in the period (obtained from the ABS Labour Force Survey) and multiplying by 1,000.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations have been used in this publication

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

| | |
|--------|---|
| ANZSIC | Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification |
| ASCO | Australian Standard Classification of Occupations |
| ASGC | Australian Standard Geographical Classification |
| ATO | Australian Taxation Office |
| AWE | average weekly earnings |
| EEH | Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours |
| GDP | gross domestic product |
| ID | industrial disputes |
| ILO | International Labour Organisation |
| JVS | Job Vacancies Survey |
| LFS | Labour Force Survey |
| MPS | Monthly Population Survey |
| qtr | quarter |
| RSE | relative standard error |
| SACC | Standard Australian Classification of Countries |
| SEE | Survey of Employment and Earnings |
| WCI | wage cost index |

Data Sources for Tables (Appendix)

APPENDIX 1 DATA SOURCES FOR TABLES

HOW TO FIND DATA SOURCES

To find a publication on the ABS web site, go to the home page and click on **Publications**. Search for the first two digits of the catalogue number under the subject listing, e.g. to find the publication **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0), look under '62. Labour force'. Catalogue numbers are listed under the relevant subject listing.

Similarly, to find a spreadsheet, go to the home page and click on **Time Series Spreadsheets**, and to find a data cube, click on **Data Cubes**. Individual numbered spreadsheets and data cubes are listed under the catalogue number. Monthly, quarterly and annual products are listed separately.

| No. | Table description | Data source | Notes |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1.1 | Trend | Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) 6202.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1 | |
| 1.2 | Age by marital status | 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1 | |
| 1.3 | States and territories | Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2 | Excludes Capital city/balance of state |
| 1.4 | Educational attendance | 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3 | |
| 1.5 | Country of birth | 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4 | More detailed Age Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth |
| | | 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM5 | Includes Sex, Age, State, Less detailed Country of birth |
| | | 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM6 | Includes Sex, State |
| | | 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM7 | Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth |
| | Year of arrival | 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4 | Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth |
| | | 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM7 | Includes Sex, State, Less detailed Country of birth |
| 1.6 | Relationship in household | 6291.0.55.001 data cube FM1 6291.0.55.001 data cube FM2 6291.0.55.001 data cube FM3 6291.0.55.001 data cube FM4 | Includes State Includes Age Includes Hours worked Unemployed persons only, Includes Duration of unemployment |
| 1.7 | Families | 6291.0.55.001 data cube FA2 | June data only |
| 1.8 | International comparisons | International Labour Organisation, Year Book of Labour Statistics 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002 International Labour Organisation, Key Indicators of the Labour Market 2001-02 International Labour Organisation, LABORSTA database: http://laborsta.ilo.org | |
| 2.1 | Industry: trend | 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 4 | Includes Employed full-time, Employed part-time |
| 2.2 | Industry: divisions and subdivisions | 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 6 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06 | Includes Sex, State, Hours worked, Less detailed Industry Includes Sex, Age, Status in employment, Hours worked Includes Sex, State, Status in employment, Hours worked, More detailed Industry |
| 2.3 | Occupation | 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 7 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 | Less detailed Occupation Includes Hours worked, Less detailed Occupation Includes Age, Hours worked, Status in employment |

| | | | |
|------|---|---|--|
| | | 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08 | Includes State, Status in employment, More detailed Occupation |
| 2.4 | Industry and Occupation by full-time part-time status | 6291.0.55.001 data cube E09 | Includes State, Hours worked |
| 2.5 | Industry by status in employment | 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 | Includes Sex, State, Excludes Industry Includes Sex, Age, More detailed Industry Includes Sex, State, More detailed Industry Includes Sex, State, Excludes Occupation |
| | Occupation by status in employment | 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08 | Includes Sex, Age, More detailed Occupation Includes Sex, State, More detailed Occupation |
| | Hours worked in all jobs by status in employment | 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 8 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 13 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08 | Excludes Hours worked, Includes Sex, Employed full-time, Employed part-time Includes Sex Includes Sex, State Includes Sex, Age, Industry Includes Sex, State, Industry Includes Sex, Age, Occupation Includes Sex, State, Occupation |
| 2.6 | Average hours worked in all jobs by Industry | 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 11 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E05 | Includes State Includes Age, Status in employment, More detailed Industry Includes State, Status in employment, More detailed Industry Includes State, Occupation |
| | Average hours worked in all jobs by Occupation | 6291.0.55.001 data cube E06 6291.0.55.001 data cube E09 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 data cube E07 6291.0.55.001 data cube E08 6291.0.55.001 data cube E09 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 11 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 13 6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 | Includes Age, Status in employment, More detailed Occupation Includes State, Status in employment, More detailed Occupation Includes State, Industry |
| 2.7 | Actual hours worked in all jobs | 6291.0.55.001 data cube E09 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 11 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 13 6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 | Includes Industry Includes Occupation Includes Status in employment Includes Age, State Includes State, Industry Includes State, Status in employment |
| 2.8 | Actual hours worked in all jobs | 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 11 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 13 6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1 6291.0.55.001 data cube E03 6291.0.55.001 data cube E04 | Includes Industry Includes Occupation Includes Status in employment Includes Age, State Includes State, Industry Includes State, Status in employment |
| | Usual hours worked in all jobs | 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 10 6291.0.55.001 data cube EM3 6291.0.55.001 data cube E10 | Includes Age, State Includes State, Industry |
| 2.9 | Full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours in all jobs | 6291.0.55.001 data cube EM2 | Includes Age, State, Hours worked |
| 2.10 | Future employment expectations by job tenure | 6291.0.55.001 data cube E02 | Excludes Future employment expectations, Includes State, Age |
| 2.11 | Public sector employees | Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001) | |
| | Public sector employees: Australia Totals | 6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1 | Includes State |
| | Public sector employees by Level of government: Trend | 6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2 6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3 6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 4 | Includes Commonwealth government, State, Seasonally adjusted and Original data Includes State government, State, Seasonally adjusted and Original data Includes Local government, State, Seasonally adjusted and Original data |
| | Public sector employees by State: Trend | 6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1 6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2 6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3 6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 4 6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 7a 6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 7a | Includes Seasonally adjusted and Original data Includes Commonwealth government, Seasonally adjusted and Original data Includes State government, Seasonally adjusted and Original data Includes Local government, Seasonally adjusted and Original data Includes Industry |
| 3.1 | Unemployed persons: Duration of unemployment by Age | 6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2 6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3 | Excludes Age, Median Duration of unemployment Excludes Median Duration of unemployment |
| 3.2 | Long-term unemployed | 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 15 6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2 | Excludes Trend data, Includes State, More detailed Duration of unemployment |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | 6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3 | Excludes Trend data, Includes State, Age |
| 3.3 Unemployed persons: Reason for unemployment by Industry of last job | 6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ1 | Excludes Industry of last job |
| | 6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ2 | Excludes Reason for unemployment |
| Unemployed persons: Reason for unemployment by Occupation of last job | 6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ1 | Excludes Occupation of last job |
| | 6291.0.55.001 data cube UQ3 | Excludes Reason for unemployment |
| 4.1 Underutilised labour | 6105.0 spreadsheet table 1 | |
| 4.2 Underutilised labour | 6105.0 spreadsheet table 1 | |
| 4.3 Part-time workers | 6291.0.55.001 data cube E01 | Less detailed Hours worked |
| 4.4 Persons not in the labour force | 6291.0.55.001 data cube NM1 | |
| 5.1 Wage cost index | Wage Cost Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0) | |
| Wage cost index: Trend data | 6345.0 spreadsheet table 1B | |
| Wage cost index: Australia, States and territories | 6345.0 spreadsheet table 2B | |
| Wage cost index: Private sector | 6345.0 spreadsheet table 3B | Includes States and territories |
| Wage cost index: Public sector | 6345.0 spreadsheet table 4B | Includes States and territories |
| Wage cost index: Industry | 6345.0 spreadsheet table 5B | Includes Sector |
| Wage cost index: Occupation | 6345.0 spreadsheet table 7B | Includes Sector |
| 5.2 Average weekly earnings | Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0) | |
| Average weekly earnings by Sex | 6302.0 spreadsheet table 1 | Includes Full-time adult total earnings |
| Average weekly earnings: Private sector | 6302.0 spreadsheet table 4 | Includes Full-time adult total earnings |
| Average weekly earnings: Public sector | 6302.0 spreadsheet table 7 | Includes Full-time adult total earnings |
| 5.3 Compensation of employees | Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0) | |
| 6.1 Industrial disputes: Working days lost | Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001) | |
| Industrial disputes: Working days lost by State | 6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3a | |
| Industrial disputes: Working days lost by Industry | 6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2a | |
| 6.2 Industrial disputes: Working days lost per 1,000 employees | Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001) | |
| Industrial disputes: Working days lost per 1,000 employees by State | 6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3b | |
| Industrial disputes: Working days lost per 1,000 employees by Industry | 6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2b | |
| 7.1 Job vacancies | Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0) | |
| Job vacancies: Australia, States and Territories | 6354.0 spreadsheet table 1C | |

List of Articles (Appendix)

APPENDIX 2 LIST OF ARTICLES

April 2004

Job search experience: methods and barriers in finding jobs

Trade union membership

Spotlight: Occupation

Technical report: Improvements to labour force estimates

January 2004

Employment in information and communication technology

Labour force participation: international comparison

Technical report: Changes to Labour Force Survey seasonal adjustment processes.

October 2003

Labour market transitions of teenagers

Spotlight: Country of birth

Spotlight: Multiple job holders

Technical report: New Labour Force Survey sample selections: analysis of the effect on estimates

July 2003

Experimental volume measures of labour underutilisation

Unemployment and participation rates in Australia: a cohort analysis

Spotlight: Population, participation and productivity: contributions to Australia's economic growth

Technical report: Measures of weekly hours worked

April 2003

Do job vacancies provide a leading indicator of employment growth?

Characteristics of underemployed workers

Spotlight: Parental leave

Spotlight: Methods of setting pay

Technical report: Labour Force Survey sample redesign

Note: the following articles appeared in **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6203.0).

February 2003

Seasonal reanalysis of monthly labour force estimates

December 2002

Volatility of labour force estimates

October 2002

Measures of labour underutilisation

October 2001

Full-time and part-time employment

August 2001

Experimental estimates: labour force characteristics of Indigenous Australians

June 2001

Duration of unemployment: recent definitional changes

February 2001

Unemployment and supplementary measures of underutilised labour

May 2000

Status in employment data changes: correction

April 2000

Using the unemployment rate series to illustrate the seasonal adjustment process

December 1999

Why are there differences between two seasonally adjusted measures of Australian total employment?

November 1999

Industry, occupation and status in employment data (original version)

October 1999

Labour force projections: 1999-2016

July 1999

Casual employment

January 1999

Concordance between the first and second editions of the **Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO)** - revised

Related Publications (Appendix)

APPENDIX 3 RELATED PUBLICATIONS

| Title | cat. no. | Frequency | Latest issue |
|--|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| Information papers and other reference material | | | |
| ABS Labour Market Statistics | 6106.0.55.001 | Irregular | 2003 |
| Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources & Methods | 5216.0 | Irregular | 2000 |
| Changes to Labour Force Survey Products | 6297.0 | Irregular | 2003 |
| Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics | 6292.0 | Irregular | 2003 |
| Labour Force Survey Sample Design | 6269.0 | Irregular | 2002 |
| Labour Force Survey Standard Errors | 6298.0 | Irregular | 2003 |
| Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources & Methods | 6102.0 | Irregular | ABS web site |
| Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey | 6232.0 | Irregular | 2001 |
| Wage Cost Index | 6346.0 | Irregular | 2000 |
| Labour force supplementary surveys | | | |
| Career Experience | 6254.0 | Irregular | Nov 2002 |
| Child Care | 4402.0 | Irregular | Jun 2002 |
| Education & Work | 6227.0 | Annual | May 2003 |
| Employee Earnings, Benefits & Trade Union Membership | 6310.0 | Annual | Aug 2003 |
| Forms of Employment | 6359.0 | Irregular | Nov 2001 |
| Job Search Experience | 6222.0 | Annual | Jul 2003 |
| Labour Force Experience | 6206.0 | Biennial | Feb 2003 |
| Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Families(a) | 6224.0 | Discontinued | Final issue 2000 |
| Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Migrants | 6250.0 | Irregular | Nov 1999 |
| Labour Mobility | 6209.0 | Biennial | Feb 2002 |
| Locations of Work | 6275.0 | Irregular | Jun 2000 |
| Multiple Jobholding(b) | 6216.0 | Discontinued | Final issue 2000 |
| Persons Not in the Labour Force | 6220.0 | Annual | Sep 2003 |
| Retirement & Retirement Intentions | 6238.0 | Irregular | Nov 1997 |
| Retrenchment & Redundancy(c) | 6266.0 | Discontinued | Final issue 2001 |
| Underemployed Workers | 6265.0 | Annual | Sep 2003 |
| Work-Related Injuries | 6324.0 | Irregular | Sep 2000 |
| Working Arrangements | 6342.0 | Irregular | Nov 2003 |
| Sub-annual labour surveys | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | 6302.0 | Quarterly | Feb 2004 |
| Industrial Disputes | 6321.0.55.001 | Quarterly | Mar qtr 2004 |
| Job Vacancies | 6354.0 | Quarterly | May 2004 |
| Labour Force | 6202.0 | Monthly | May 2004 |
| Wage & Salary Earners, Public Sector | 6248.0.55.001 | Quarterly | Mar qtr 2004 |
| Wage Cost Index | 6345.0 | Quarterly | Mar qtr 2004 |
| Other labour surveys | | | |
| Employee Earnings & Hours | 6306.0 | Biennial | May 2002 |
| Employer Training Expenditure & Practices | 6362.0 | Irregular | 2001-02 |
| Labour Costs | 6348.0.55.001 | Irregular | 2002-03 |
| Other publications | | | |
| Australian Economic Indicators | 1350.0 | Monthly | Jul 2004 |
| Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure & Product | 5206.0 | Quarterly | Mar 2004 |
| Australian Social Trends | 4102.0 | Annual | 2004 |

| | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Australian System of National Accounts | 5204.0 | Annual | 2002-03 |
| Australians' Employment & Unemployment Patterns: First Results | 6289.0 | Irregular | 1994 to 1996 |
| Business Indicators | 5676.0 | Quarterly | Mar 2004 |
| Census of Population & Housing: Selected Education & Labour Force Statistics | 2017.0 | Irregular | 2001 |
| Education & Training Indicators | 4230.0 | Irregular | 2002 |
| Employment Arrangements & Superannuation | 6361.0 | Irregular | Apr to Jun 2000 |
| General Social Survey | 4159.0 | Irregular | 2002 |
| Government Benefits, Taxes & Household Income | 6537.0 | Irregular | 1998-99 |
| Household Income & Income Distribution | 6523.0 | Irregular | 2000-2001 |
| Measures of Australia's Progress | 1370.0 | Irregular | 2004 |
| Regional Wage & Salary Earners - Electronic Publication | 5673.0.55.001 | Annual | 2000-01 |
| Superannuation: Coverage & Financial Characteristics | 6360.0 | Irregular | Apr to Jun 2000 |
| Voluntary Work | 4441.0 | Irregular | 2000 |

(a) Latest data available via the ABS web site, and on request, for June 2003.

(b) Latest data available on request for July 2001.

(c) Related data available from Labour Mobility.

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